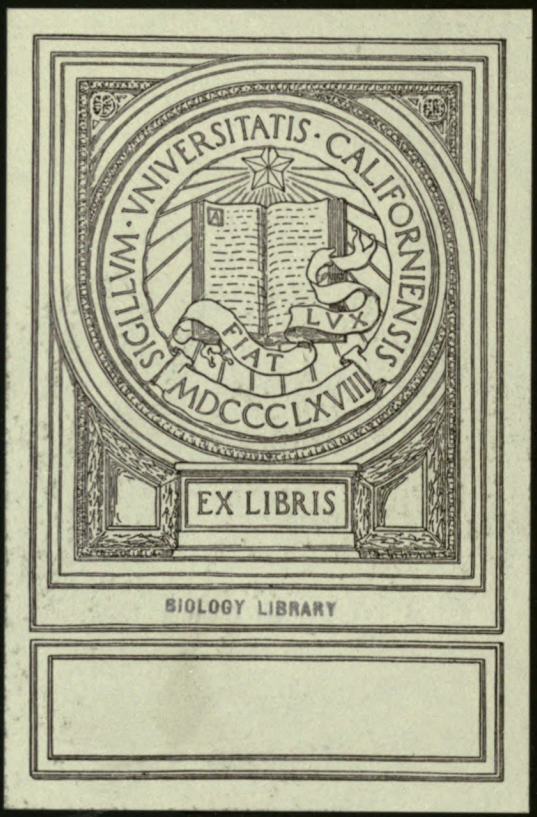
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March 1908.

"What we think; we become."

NESTS AND EGGS OF BRITISH BIRDS.

IN THREE VOLUMES.—VOLUME II.

STANFORD

CHAFFINCH.

A

NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE

NESTS AND EGGS

OF

BRITISH BIRDS

THIRD EDITION

NEWLY REVISED, CORRECTED AND ENLARGED

BY

THE REV. F. O. MORRIS, B.A.

Rector of Nunburnholme, Yorkshire

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME THE SECOND

WITH TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-EIGHT COLOURED PLATES

LONDON

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NESTS AND EGGS

OF

BRITISH BIRDS.

CHAFFINCH.

SHILFA. SCOBBY. SHELLY. SKELLY.
SHELL-APPLE. BEECH-FINCH. TWINK. SPINK. PINK.
TWEET. HORSE-FINCH.

PLATE LXXX.

Fringilla cælebs, PENNANT. MONTAGU. BEWICK.

THE nest is truly a beautiful piece of workmanship, compact and neat in the highest degree. It is usually so well adapted to the colour of the place where it is built, as to elude detection from any chance passer by—close scrutiny is required to discover it. It is therefore variously made, according to the nature of the elements of construction at hand. Some are built of grasses, stalks of plants, and small roots, compacted with the scales of bark and wool, and lined with hair,

with perhaps a few feathers, the outside being entirely covered with tree moss and lichens, taken from the tree itself in which it is placed; the assimilation being thus rendered complete. Others are without any wool, its place being supplied with thistle-down, and spider-cots. In fact the bird accommodates itself to circumstances, or rather circumstances to its requirements, using such materials as are at hand. The upper edge of the nest is generally very neatly woven with slender straws, and the width of the open part is often not more than an inch and a half, but usually an inch and three quarters; the whole is firmly fixed between the branches; to which some of its component parts are attached for the purpose.

"————the Shilfa's nest, that seems to be
A portion of the sheltering tree."

In the neighbourhood of Belfast, where there are 'branches' of the cotton manufacture, these birds use that material in the construction of their nests; and in answer to the objection that its conspicuous colour would betray the presence of the nest, and not accord with the theory that birds assimilate the outward appearance of their structures to surrounding objects, it was replied, says Mr. Thompson, that, on the contrary, the use of cotton in that locality might rather be considered as rendering the nest more difficult of detection, as the roadside hedges and neighbouring trees are always dotted with tufts of it.

The eggs are four or five in number, of a short oval form, and of a dull bluish green colour, clouded with dull red, often blended together into one tint. They are slightly streaked, and somewhat spotted irre-

gularly over their whole surface with dark dull well-defined red spots. Some have been found of a uniform dull blue, without any spots.

N. Rowe, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, tells me of two he had which were quite round, the ground colour very pale blue, with three or four round black spots scattered over the surface.

W. Bridger, Esq., has obligingly forwarded the nest, and the Rev. R. P. Alington a drawing of one, which, though neither of them have had to be made use of, I am equally obliged for.

One is grounded with a pale bluish grey, with a few large distinct brown spots.

A second is of a pale bluish grey with a handsome band of light red spots round the broad end.

A third is pale grey with a few large dark rust-coloured spots and a few paler washes of the same.

A fourth is grounded with light rust-coloured red, with a very few large dark reddish spots.

A fifth is of a dark bluish green, with a very few large dark red spots.

MOUNTAIN FINCH

BRAMBLING. BRAMBLE FINCH. LULEAN FINCH.

PLATE LXXXI.

Fringilla montifringilla,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Fringilla Lulensis,	GMELIN.

THE nest is placed in lofty fir and other trees, is formed of moss, and lined with wool and feathers. R. Dashwood, Esq., of Beccles, Suffolk, had these birds lay in two instances, in the year 1839, and in the latter the eggs were hatched. His aviary is a large one, enclosing a considerable space of ground, and is surrounded with ivy, and planted inside with shrubs. If birds are to be kept in confinement at all, some such place is the only one in which they should be confined. The nest having been completed four days, the first egg was laid on the 16th. of June, in the above-named year, and another was laid each day till the 21st., when they were removed. The nest was composed of moss, wool, and dry grass, and lined with hair; and these materials were selected from a variety which the birds had the option of making use of. The foundations, which were large, were worked in among the stalks of the ivy leaves.

'In the latter part of July, in the same year,' says

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MOUNTAIN FINCH.

UNIV. OF
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Mr. Dashwood, writing to Mr. Hewitson, 'another pair of Bramblings built, placing their nest on the ground, close to a shrub or a tuft of grass. The outside of the nest was made of moss, and it was lined with hair. From this nest I removed four eggs on the 1st. of August; on the 17th. of June, 1840, they laid again, having built in the ivy. This nest I did not disturb, but although the eggs were hatched, they did not succeed in rearing the young ones.'

In the 'Account of the Birds found in Norfolk,' the authors mention the following instance, or rather instances, of these birds nesting in confinement, communicated to them by a gentleman residing near Norwich. A pair of Bramblings built a nest in an aviary in the last week in the month of June, 1842, and two eggs were laid, both of which were removed and found to be good. In June, 1843, the same birds again nested, and the female laid two eggs, and these having been removed, they formed a second nest in a different spot, in which four eggs were deposited.

The last nest, together with the eggs, was accidentally destroyed, and it was not ascertained whether the eggs laid during the year were good or not.

The eggs are four or five in number, of a pale greyish colour, spotted with reddish brown.

The first figure is from an egg laid in the aviary of Mr. Dashwood, of Beccles. The second is from a specimen in the cabinet of J. R. De C. Wise, Esq.

One is of a dull bluish green faintly freckled with brown, with a few large distinct brown spots.

A second is a very light dull green tinged with red, with a good many red and dark brown spots.

A third is grounded with dull bluish green with

a few red or dark brown spots and marks, some run together at the larger end.

A fourth is pale dull bluish green with some very pale brownish dashes.

A fifth is of a dull pale bluish green, freckled with light small brown spots all over.

STANFORD

TREE SPARROW.

TREE SPARROW.

MOUNTAIN SPARROW.

PLATE LXXXII.

Passer montanus,	RAY.
Pyrgita montana,	FLEMING.
Fringilla montana,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Loxia Hamburgia,	GMELIN.

NIDIFICATION, it would appear, commences in February, and incubation in March, two or three broods being reared in the year.

The nest is formed of hay, and is lined with wool, down, and feathers. It is loosely put together, and the consequence of this untidiness, the larger straws being left hanging carelessly outside, is that the situation of the nest is betrayed to the prowling bird-nester. The same situation is often again occupied from year to year.

James Dalton, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, informs me that he has taken the nest of this bird from a Sand Martin's hole, near Buckingham. They build in many various situations, most frequently in a hole of a tree, whence their English name, either that formed naturally by decay, or that in which some other bird, such as the Woodpecker, or one of the species, has previously domiciled; sometimes also in old nests that

had been inhabited by Magpies and Crows; and in these cases, the nest, that is of the Tree Sparrow, is domed over, as is done also by the House Sparrow, when it locates its habitation in similar situations. Not unfrequently they build in the thatch of barns and out-houses, but only in thoroughly country places, the entrance being from the outside; also in the tiling of houses, and in stacks and wood faggots; likewise in old walls, not many feet above the ground. Arthur Strickland, Esq., of Bridlington, has recorded that a pair built their nest, a domed one, in a hedge in the grounds of Walton Hall.

The eggs, from four to six in number, are of a dull white or grey colour, speckled all over with light greyish brown of different shades.

One fine variety is of a dark rich reddish brown colour, mottled all over.

A second is of a deep yellowish green, likewise mottled all over with darker specks.

A third is marked entirely over with minute grey, yellowish, brown, and bluish dots and small streaks.

A fourth, dull brown dark about the base, and all mottled.

The engraving is from specimens taken by W. R. Fisher, Esq., of Yarmouth, from a nest placed in a hole of the stem of an apple tree at that place.

DISCARD

SPARROW.

LXXXIII

SPARROW.

HOUSE SPARROW. COMMON SPARROW.

PLATE LXXXIII.

Passer domesticus,	SELBY.
Fringilla domestica,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Pyrgita domestica,	FLEMING.

THE nest, which is large in size, and very loosely compacted, is usually placed under the eaves of the tiles of houses or other buildings, in the ivy on a wall, underneath the nest of Rook or Magpie, or in any hole or cavity that will supply it with a convenient receptacle for its brood. It is compiled of hay, straw, wool, moss, or twigs, and a profusion of feathers, which the birds are sometimes seen conveying to their holes even in winter. It often measures as much as six inches in diameter, and sometimes even yet more, if the situation demands it. The materials just mentioned, as also any other that may meet the requirements of the bird, are variously disposed and arranged together according to circumstances. Dovecotes and pigeon-houses, old walls, sheds, and ruins, are frequently built in, and the same situation is continued to be resorted to, and this even when the young have been exposed to misfortune from rain: also, as previously mentioned under the account of the Martin,

66

forcible possession is sometimes taken of the nest of the latter bird. It would appear that trees are built in more from necessity than choice, namely, by yearling birds which commence nidification late, by which time convenient places in walls have been pre-occupied; or by individuals which from some cause or other, had been obliged to give up the latter localities. Fewer broods in the year are produced therefore in the case of nests in trees, both from their being commenced later in the season, and from their requiring naturally more time in their construction; they are accordingly better made and larger. Mr. Meyer describes one which was handsomely built of moss, grass, and lichens, and neatly lined with hair. The entrance in these cases is by the side, and the interior is profusely lined with feathers.

The first set of eggs generally consists of four, five, or six. They are dull light grey, or greyish white, much spotted and streaked all over with ash-colour and dusky brown, varying considerably in appearance, though preserving for the most part a general resemblance. They also differ very frequently and very much in size and shape.

One is figured by Professor Thieneman, of a light green colour, mottled with dark green, with which the base is covered.

A second is very pale grey faintly striated all over with small dots of a shade darker.

A third is nearly white, with a few small grey and brown dots.

A fourth is brown, finely marked all over with deep rich brown.

The lower egg on the plate is from one forwarded by G. Grantham, Esq., of East Shalford, Guildford.

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GREENFINCH.

GREENFINCH.

GREEN GROSSBEAK. GREEN LINNET.

PLATE LXXXIV.

Coccothraustes Chloris,	FLEMING. JARDINE.
Loxia Chloris,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.
Linaria Chloris,	MACGILLIVRAY.
Fringilla Chloris,	TEMMINCK.

NIDIFICATION begins generally in April, or even earlier; the work has been known to have been completed by the 26th. of March.

The nest is pretty well compacted, and much more so in some instances than in others. It is composed of small roots, twigs, moss, and straws, and lined with finer materials of the same kinds, mingled, as the case may be, with thistle down, feathers, and hair; one was once built in the trellis-work near the drawing-room of Nafferton Vicarage, a few yards from that of the Spotted Flycatcher; but though undisturbed, it was not resorted to the following year, as was that of its near neighbour. It is placed in various situations—a low bush, or an evergreen, the ivy against a wall, or between the branches of a tree. Many nests are often found in propinquity to each other in the same shrubbery; more than one sometimes even in the same bush.

The eggs, from four to six, or even seven in number, are of a bluish or purple reddish white, spotted with darker purple, grey, and blackish brown, streaked also in general more or less with black. They differ much in size, shape, and colour; sometimes the whole surface is mottled over, and again, there have been known no markings at all: the smaller end is rather pointed.

Two broods are frequently reared in the season. The young, when fledged, fly off in a body from the nest, if approached. The young of the Spotted Fly-catcher I have seen do the same, though they had never flown before, on my going to the nest to place a young orphan Greenfinch in it, with a view to its being fed with them as a foster-brother.

These eggs do not vary very materially in colour.

One is a pale grey, spotted with many small light brown spots at the thicker end.

A second is a pale grey, spotted with a few light brown spots all over, chiefly at the larger end.

A third is similarly grounded with pale grey, with a few light brown spots all over, but not so extensively.

The figure of the nest is from a remarkably beautiful specimen taken from an elm tree.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

SERIN FINCH.

LXXXIV*

SERIN FINCH.

PLATE LXXXIV*.

Fringilla serinus, LINNÆUS. TEMMINCK.

THE nest is neatly and well built of fine roots and stalks of grass, added to with spider-cots, moss, and lichens, lined with feathers and hair, or perhaps a lock or two from its 'woolstapler', the lamb, or sheep.

It is placed between the smaller branches of a shrub.

The eggs are of a pale dull greenish all over, with small indistinct spots, darkened at the obtuse end.

HAWFINCH.

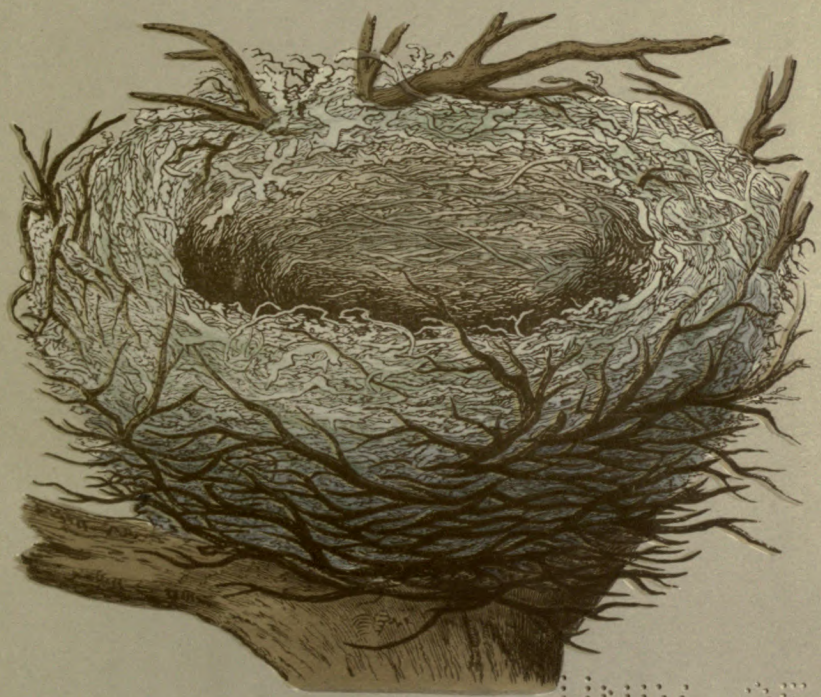
GROSSBEAK. COMMON GROSSBEAK. HAW GROSSBEAK. BLACK-THROATED GROSSBEAK.

PLATE LXXXV.

Coccothraustes vulgaris,	FLEMING. GOULD.
Loxia coccothraustes,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.
Fringilla coccothraustes,	JENYNS. TEMMINCK.

I HAVE been favoured by St. Aubin Molesworth St. Aubin, Esq., with the nest and egg of this bird, which were taken in the parish of Beenham, in the county of Berks: it is entirely composed of lichens and fine roots. It is frequently placed in a thorn bush, or holly tree, as also in oaks, the horse-chesnut, apple, and fir trees of the different species, at a height of twenty-five or thirty feet from the ground, often in a very exposed situation. It is variously made of small twigs, such as those of the oak and honeysuckle, intermixed with fragments of lichens, in greater or less abundance. The lining consists of fine roots, vegetable fibres, and a little hair, with feathers, according to Montagu. It is not firmly compacted, towards which effect perhaps the principal material contributes.

The eggs are from four to six in number, of a pale olive green, spotted with blackish brown, and



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HAWFINCH.

ARCHIVE

irregularly streaked with dark olive and dusky grey; some are much less marked than others, and some are of a uniform pale green; others have been obtained by Lord Clifton of a reddish ground colour.

There do not appear to be any very striking varieties.

One is of a pale greenish grey white, with a few hair-like waved streaks, and a few larger and smaller blackish spots.

A second is grounded with a pale bluish white, with a few large and small black spots, and a few hair streaks.

A third is a pale greenish grey, with a very few hair-like streaks and a few large spots chiefly towards the broad end.

GOLDFINCH.

GOLDIE. GOLDSPINK. THISTLE-FINCH. KING HARRY. RED-CAP. PROUD-TAIL.

PLATE LXXXVI.

Carduelis elegans,	MACGILLIVRAY.
Fringilla carduelis,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.

THE nest, which is a beautifully wrought structure, is placed in orchard and other trees, especially those which are evergreen, in bushes, and in some instances in hedges, and at times as much as thirty feet from the ground: it is composed externally of grass, moss, lichens, small twigs, and roots or any other appropriate substances. Inside it is elaborately interwoven with wool and hair, lined with the down of willows and various plants, and sometimes a few or more leaves or feathers. It is very neatly finished, and Bolton says is completed in three days. It is often placed in frequented situations, without much regard to passers by. The same place is resorted to in successive years. W. K. Bridger, Esq. has favoured me with a specimen.

The eggs, four or five in number, are bluish white, or pale greyish blue, sometimes tinged with brown, and are slightly spotted with greyish purple and brown, with occasionally a dark streak or two.

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GOLDFINCH.

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Of varieties, one is of a pale grey, with reddish brown spots at the broad end, and a few black ones interspersed.

A second grounded with pale grey, speckled with a few light brown spots, chiefly at the largely end—some of them large and run together; also one or two darker ones.

A third of a pale grey, marked with pale reddish spots, chiefly at the larger end, and a few brown ones.

SISKIN.

ABERDEVINE.

PLATE LXXXVII.

Carduelis spinus,	MACGILLIVRAY.
Fringilla spinus,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.

THE nest is placed in trees, at only a short or moderate height from the ground, about from five to eight feet or so, or near the top of a spruce fir, and is composed of stalks of grass, small roots and fibres, moss and lichens, lined with hair, rabbits' fur, thistle-down, wool, or a few feathers, but these last not as a rule. It has been known more than once placed in a furze bush within three feet of the ground, as also in a whitethorn and a hedge. Bushes are also occasionally built in.

The eggs are pale greenish white, spotted around the thicker end with purple, and a few brown dots. W. F. W. Bird, Esq., has kindly sent me a drawing of one in the collection of the Right Hon. Lord Garvagh.

Incubation lasts fourteen days; the young are fledged in fifteen more, and are able to leave the nest at the end of the third week.

Thieneman figures the following:—

One of a greenish grey, with a few red spots at the broad end, and a thick black streak.

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CALIFORNIA

SISKIN.

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A second of a very light green, marked with a few small pale yellowish brown spots at the broad end.

A third of a greenish grey, marked with a few small and some larger red spots.

The Siskin has been known to build and breed in confinement. Mr. Hewitson figures an egg which was laid, together with three others, by a hen bird which had been kept three years in a cage.

It appears to nidificate most frequently in North Britain, though instances have also occurred in the extreme south, that is to say, in the neighbourhood of London.

LINNET.

BROWN LINNET. COMMON LINNET. GREATER REDPOLE.
GREY LINNET.
ROSE LINNET. RED-BREASTED LINNET. WHIN LINNET.

PLATE LXXXVIII.

Linaria cannabina,	MACGILLIVRAY.
Fringilla cannabina,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.
Fringilla Linota,	LATHAM.
Linota cannabina,	PRINCE OF MUSIGNANO. YARRELL.

THE nest, of rather large size, is commonly placed in heath, grass, furze, or gorse, and is neatly constructed inside, but the outside rather roughly, being formed of small twigs, roots, straws, fibres, and stalks of grass, thistle-down, or willow catkins, intermixed with moss and wool, and lined with hair and sometimes a few feathers. It is occasionally placed in a gorse, thorn, or other bush or tree, and has been known at a height of ten or twelve feet, but is usually about four, from the ground; also in hedges; one on the top of a gate-post; often in trees trained against a wall, particularly the pear, as affording the most concealment; one high up in a whitethorn: a nest with six eggs was found at Bedworth, Warwickshire, the end of the first week in January, 1884. A pair of Linnets, have built

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LINNET.

LXXXVIII

REDPOLL.

LESSER REDPOLE. LESSER REDPOLE LINNET.

PLATE LXXXIX.

Linaria minor,	MACGILLIVRAY.
Fringilla linaria,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.
Fringilla linaria,	KEYS, ETC.
Spinus linaria,	KOCK.
Linota linaria,	BUONAPARTE.
Fringilla rufescens,	VIELLOT.
Linaria flavirostris,	EYTON.
Linaria alnorum,	BREHM.
Linaria rubra,	STEPHENS.
Linaria betularum,	BREHM.

THE nest, about an inch and a half across, is built in a low bush or tree, such as an alder, hawthorn, hazel, osier, or willow, seven or eight feet, and sometimes much more, from the ground, but a good deal lower, or in heather, and is fabricated of moss, hair, wool, stems of grass, and willow catkins, the latter being also used for the lining, as likewise feathers. I have been informed by Mr. F. Wise, of Arram, in Holderness, of one at a height of about twenty feet, on the end of a bough of an oak, among a tuft of small shoots where the end had been broken off. It is rather carefully and neatly constructed, sometimes very much so. Several nests are often built quite near together.

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REDPOLE.

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This species lays from four to six eggs: their colour is pale bluish green, spotted with orange brown, principally towards the larger end, and sometimes a few thin streaks of a darker colour—brown or black.

One is of a greenish grey, speckled with a few rusty brown spots, most so at the base.

A second is of a greenish grey, speckled with red spots all over, chiefly at the larger end.

A third is of a darker bluish green, spotted with a few pale reddish spots.

The nest is figured from a specimen which was taken on the 6th. of June, in the year 1853, in the neighbourhood of Driffield. It is made of the usual materials, as mentioned in the description. It contained three eggs, from one of which the engraving was drawn.

MEALY REDPOLL.

STONY REDPOLE. LESSER REDPOLE.
LESSER REDPOLE LINNET.

PLATE XC.—FIGURE I.

Linaria canescens,	GOULD.
Linaria borealis,	SELBY.
Linaria minor,	SELBY.
Fringilla borealis,	TEMMINCK.

THE egg is described by Meyer as being pale greenish blue, sprinkled over with pale but distinct spots of a reddish brown colour, some of them inclining to lilac, chiefly confined to a zone around the larger end.

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MEALY REDPOLE.
TWITE.

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TWITE

MOUNTAIN LINNET.

PLATE XC.—FIGURE II.

Linaria montana,	SELBY.
Fringilla flavirostris,	LINNÆUS.

THE nest is built on the ground, chiefly in heath, grass, or growing corn, by the side of a furrow, or among gorse, and but seldom, if ever, in bushes. It is formed of small roots, twigs, and stalks of shrubs, heather, moss, and dry grass, and is lined with a small quantity of hair or wool, and a few feathers. A pair have built and reared their young in the aviary of Mr. Thomas Walker, of Rosebank, near Tunbridge Wells.

The eggs, four, five, six, or seven in number, are of a pale greenish or bluish white, spotted with reddish brown, or light brown and purple-red towards the larger end, with sometimes a few blackish dots.

BULLFINCH.

NOPE. POPE. ALP. HOOP. COMMON BULLFINCH.

PLATE XCI.

Loxia pyrrhula,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Pyrrhula vulgaris,	FLEMING. SELBY.

TOWARDS the end of April the birds pair, and nidification is commenced in the beginning of May, and is finished by the end of that month, or the early part of June.

The nest, small and shallow, is formed of small twigs, commonly those of the birch, beech or hornbeam, and is lined with fine roots, grass, wool, and hair, the whole being rather carelessly built and not firmly compacted; in some instances moss is added. The middle part is more carefully finished and of the finest of the materials. It is generally placed low, either in a tree, such as a fir, or in the middle of a bush or other underwood, frequently a hawthorn, at a height of four or five feet from the ground. It is often built in an evergreen, a cover, plantation, or shrubbery, even near a house, commonly in a wood, and occasionally, though but seldom, in a garden. They will breed in confinement, and naturally where they have the most room.

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BULLFINCH.

St. Mary's
Seminary

The eggs, four or five in number, are pale blue, speckled and streaked with purple grey, and dark purple. They are hatched towards the end of May, after an incubation of fifteen days. The male takes his turn in sitting with the female. The latter sits very closely, though she is in general easily frightened away. The male is less so, but it is said that if he be disturbed the nest is almost always deserted, which is not the case when the female is alarmed. William Henry Rudston Read, Esq., of Hayton and York, has recorded in the 'Naturalist,' old series, that, when resident at Frickley Hall, near Doncaster, a hen bird which built in a laurel near the house suffered herself to be touched while sitting on her young ones, and would feed from the hand without the least fear. The birds are supposed to pair for life; the members of the family keep together until the spring.

One is of a pale bluish green, marked with a few very small and one or two large brown spots.

A second is grounded with pale bluish green, thickly marked with large and small spots about the larger end.

A third is of a pale bluish green grey, speckled with a few brown spots.

SCARLET BULLFINCH.

SCARLET GROSSBEAK. CRIMSON-HEADED FINCH.

PLATE XCII.—FIGURE I.

Pyrrhula erythryna, PALLAS.

THE nest is loosely built, but neatly lined inside with the finer stems of plants, interwoven with a few hairs.

The eggs are from four to six in number; their colour a deep greenish blue, with a few dark reddish-brown or nearly black spots and specks, with blots of pale purple red.

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SCARLET BULLFINCH.
PINE GROSSBEAK.
CROSSBILL.

CROSSBILL.

COMMON CROSSBILL. EUROPEAN CROSSBILL. SHELL-APPLE.

PLATE XCII.—FIGURE III.

Loxia curvirostra, LINNÆUS. LATHAM.

NIDIFICATION commences very early in foreign countries, even in January or February, the young having been found fledged in March; also in May. According to Temminck, these birds nestle at all seasons of the year. Second broods must either follow the earliest, or some pairs must delay their building. Several often build together.

The nest is placed in the angle of the junction of the branches of a tree, naturally the fir, but the apple also has been known, low down as well as high up, and is loosely compacted of small twigs, grass, straws, stalks, and moss or lichens, according with the colour of the tree it is placed on, lined on the inside with the dry leaves of the fir tree, and also with hair, moss, wool, or feathers. They have been known only about five or ten feet from the ground, and up to forty. The edges of the nest extend from three to five inches beyond the middle part.

The eggs, four or five in number, are white or greyish white, sometimes tinged with pale blue or

green, ands potted, chiefly at the thicker end, with red-brown, reddish, bluish red, purple, or brown; in some well-defined, in others shaded off, and in others only lines.

One is of a very light shade of greenish grey, with one or two large red spots, and a few small ones.

A second is of a very light bluish grey, with several red spots at the thicker end, and a few others.

A third is grounded with very light brown, with waved yellowish-red streaks, chiefly at the broad end.

J. R. Wise Esq. has favoured me with a specimen for the use of this work.

PARROT CROSSBILL.

PLATE XCIII.

Loxia pityopsittacus, BEWICK. FLEMING.
Loxia curvirostra major, (*as a variety,*) GMELIN. LATHAM.

THE nest is placed chiefly in lofty forest trees, and is composed of small twigs, lined with dry grass or leaves of the fir tree.

The eggs are said to be four or five in number, ash-coloured, or bluish white, and spotted with bluish red and dusky at the larger end.

One is grounded with very pale bluish grey with a few small red spots, chiefly about the larger end.

A second is also of a very light pale bluish grey, with a band of bright red spots at the broad end, and a few others scattered about.

The young are hatched after a fortnight's incubation.

The Rev. H. B. Tristram, has obligingly forwarded to me the egg made use of for the plate. It was obtained by himself at Hennsand, in Sweden.

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PARROT CROSSBILL.

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WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.

XCIV

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.

PLATE XCIV.

Loxia leucoptera,	GMELIN. BUONAPARTE.
Loxia falcirostra,	PENNANT. FLEMING.

THE nest is said to be placed on the branches of pine trees, and to be composed of grasses cemented together with earth and lined with feathers.

The eggs, five in number, are described as white, marked with yellowish spots; otherwise, as pale blue with fine dots of black and lilac grey.

J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has forwarded me a specimen believed to be of this bird.

ROSE-COLOURED PASTOR.

ROSE OUZEL. ROSE-COLOURED OUZEL.
ROSE-COLOURED STARLING.

PLATE XCV.

Pastor roseus,	FLEMING. SELBY.
Turdus roseus,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest is located in holes of trees, and in cavities in old walls or rocks, as also on the ground, thousands of nests being built together, so as even to touch one another. A few straws, sticks, wool, leaves, grasses, roots, mosses, feathers, and such like, are the materials, if any, for often the eggs are laid on the bare ground, or in a deep hollow or hole under rocks and stones.

The eggs are five or six to seven or even nine in number, and are said by the Hon. Thomas Littleton Powis, on the authority of Mr. Linder, of Geneva, to be white, resembling those of the Starling, with the like faint tinge of green blue or blue green. W. F. W. Bird, Esq. has obligingly forwarded me a drawing of one, from the collection of the Right Honourable Lord Garvagh, and J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., a specimen.

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ROSE-COLOURED PASTOR.

XCV

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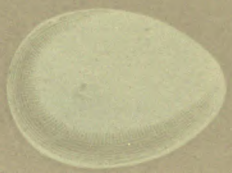

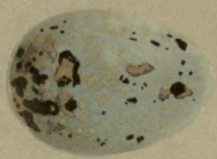

STARLING.

RED-WINGED STARLING.

XCVI

STARLING.

STARE. COMMON STARLING. COMMON STARE.
SOLITARY THRUSH, (THE YOUNG.)

PLATE XCVI.—FIGURE I.

Sturnus vulgaris, PENNANT. MONTAGU.

NIDIFICATION commences about the end of March or the beginning or middle of April. They build in Church-steeples and in hollows and eaves of the walls of houses, castles, spires, towers, or ruins, as also in those of trees, as well as in cliffs and rocky and precipitous places; at times in dove-cotes and pigeon-houses, in caverns too, and under rocks, and even have been known to occupy the holes deserted by rats, more or less fashioned for themselves. Where any or all of these are awanting, the abutment of a bridge, or any suitably high building, is put up with. I have heard of one built in a hole in the top of a gate post, quite, of course, within reach of the hand of any passer by. Another has been known in a small hollow on the ground, and the brood safely hatched, A rabbit-burrow is also sometimes resorted to, and the hole in a tree scooped out by a Woodpecker. In Woburn Park, Bedfordshire, I am informed by Mr. George B. Clark that Starlings have built some dome-

shaped nests in Scotch firs, the entrance placed near the branch of the tree, the nests being made of coarse grass, and lined with fine grass. He also writes in 'The Naturalist,' volume i., page 214, of some built in trees that were quite flat; and again, page 116, that he has known them feloniously and burglariously occupy the holes previously excavated by Sand Martin's for themselves, contrary, I may observe, to 'Martin's Act;' and J. Mc'Intosh, Esq., also mentions, at page 204, describing a famous chesnut tree in the grounds of Canford House, Dorsetshire, one of five planted by John of Gaunt, and still flourishing so long since 'time-honoured Lancaster' himself has mouldered into dust, that at its base was a colony of rabbits, in the trunk a nest of cats, and immediately above the latter, one of Starlings. One has been built for two or three years in succession, in the garden of Nunburnholme Rectory, in the depth of a hole in a large old acacia tree, which went quite down to the ground. Since then the tree has been blown down, and I happened to see it fall.

The nest is large, and fabricated of straws, roots, portions of plants, and dry grass, or hay, with a rude lining of feathers and hair. The birds will sometimes resort most pertinaciously to the same building-place, in spite of every opposition, discouragement, and blockade. In one instance the eggs have been said to have been found in the nest of a Magpie. One pair having with much difficulty forced their way into a ball used by being raised or let down to act as a signal on a railway, there built their nest, and though the ball was elevated and lowered to within a few feet of the ground fourteen times a day, this did not interfere with their proceedings, and in due time four eggs were laid with

every prospect of being duly hatched. This was near Kilwinning, on the Androssan line, in 1853, and the circumstance was recorded in the 'Dumfries Courier.' The hen sits very close, is fed by her mate, and has been known to allow herself to be taken by the hand from the nest.

The eggs, four or five in number, are of a delicate pale blue or blue green colour: some have a few black dots. R. J. Davidson, Esq., of Muirhouse, informs me of a nest of five perfectly white eggs, which he found in a hollow tree at Dedham, in Essex, in 1862. G. Warren, Esq., of Witnesham Vicarage, near Abingdon, found a nest, with the eggs all but pure white, and forwarded me two of them as specimens.

Incubation lasts about sixteen days; both birds feed the young. Two or three broods may be raised in the year in some places, but ordinarily one, or at the most two.

J. R. Fisher, Esq. states that Mr. Gurney told him of a Starling, the young of which having been taken from the nest and placed in a cage which was hung upon a wall, were discovered and fed by the old bird until they were able to fly, at which time, and not before, she unfastened the door of the cage and let them out.

RED-WINGED STARLING.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. RED-WINGED MAIZE-BIRD.
MARSH BLACKBIRD. SWAMP BLACKBIRD. CORN THIEF.

PLATE XCVI.—FIGURE II.

Sturnus prædatorius,	LUBBOCK. WILSON.
Icterus phœnicurus,	BUONAPARTE.

ABOUT the middle of April the birds pair, and nidification commences the last week in April, or the beginning of May, or even later, according to the latitude in which they happen to be.

The nest is placed variously in a bush or tree, a few feet from the ground, or in a tussock of rushes or tuft of grass, or even, and not unfrequently, on the ground. It is composed of rushes and long tough grass, and lined with finer portions of the latter; the rushes are interlaced among the surrounding twigs, if in a tree, or among the rushes, if on the ground, in which latter case the whole structure is less elaborate than in the former. Several nests are often built in the immediate neighbourhood of each other.

The eggs, about five in number, are of a pale bluish-white colour, encircled at the larger end with spots and streaks of dark reddish brown, with a few

others scattered here and there, and some faint blots of purple grey and lines and dashes of black.

J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq. has forwarded me a specimen, presented to him by Audubon.

DIPPER.

COMMON DIPPER. EUROPEAN DIPPER.
WATER OUZEL. WATER CROW.

PLATE XCVII.

Cinclus aquaticus,	FLEMING. SELBY.
Turdus cinclus,	PENNANT.
Sturnus cinclus,	MONTAGU.

NIDIFICATION begins about the middle of April. The nest, which is cleverly concealed, and large, measuring ten or twelve inches in diameter, and seven or eight in depth, being domed, is well compacted of moss and grass, and fully lined with leaves. It is placed in some cavity in a rock, or under the protection of some overhanging stone in the immediate neighbourhood of the rippling stream or murmuring waterfall, the birds' favourite haunt. Different specimens however vary in size as well as shape, adapted doubtless to the circumstances of the spot they are placed in, some being a couple of inches less than the size just spoken of. The aperture is in front, from three to four inches in width, and about one and a half in height. Mr. Macgillivray mentions one, described to him by Thomas Durham Weir, Esq., which was built in an angle between two fragments of rocks under a small cascade, and

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DIPPER.

XCVII

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although the water fell upon part of the dome, the compactness with which it was put together rendered it impenetrable.

Another was similarly placed in a hole of a wall close to a waterfall, which even sometimes passed over it, but the birds nevertheless flew in and out with the greatest ease. Again, another placed for several years in succession on the rafter of a salmon fish-loch is recorded by Mr. Hewitson. Others have been known built within the passage of a mill-race. In such cases the mother bird will often dash two or three times through the rushing waters, as if in the enjoyment of pastime, before resuming her place on the eggs. The young soon quit the nest, and are at home almost from the first in the water.

The birds are strongly attached to their accustomed building-place, and one pair, or at least a pair, have been known to occupy the same haunt for thirty-one years, rearing three broods in the year, and four young ones to each brood.

The eggs, from four to six in number, are white, and of a regular oval form.

MISSEL THRUSH.

MISSELTOE THRUSH. STORM-COCK. MISSEL-BIRD.
SHRITE. SHRIKE-COCK. HOLM THRUSH.

PLATE XCVIII.

Turdus viscivorus,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.
Merula viscivora,	SELBY.

PREPARATIONS for the nest begin very early. Building has been observed to have been commenced even in the end of March, and on the 3rd. and the 5th. of April, and nests with eggs have been found on the 6th. and 7th. of that month, as also at the same place so late as the 26th. of May in the same year, I had a note from J. N. F. Bardwell, Esq., of Bolton Hall, near York, on the 17th. of March, 1883, in which he told me of one which was sitting in a new nest, on the 5th. of that month, but the extreme cold of the 16th. killed her, as she was found dead under the tree; the nest was found to have three eggs in it.

The nest, which is a loose structure, is a compilation of twigs, small sticks, straws, grasses, leaves, lichens, wool, or mosses, compacted inwardly with mud, intermingled with still smaller roots, finer grasses, and moss, or indeed any soft material, feathers in some cases,

MISSEL THRUSH.

XCVIII

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frequently with grass alone; sometimes the outside is partly covered with lichens and mosses, the former taken from or resembling those on the tree itself, to which they consequently give the fabric verisimilitude. The width is about four inches and a half, the depth two and three fourths, and the thickness of the sides an inch and three quarters. Mr. Hewitson, mentions one nest of which the foundation was of mud, strongly cemented to, and nearly encircling the branches between which it was fixed. This material appears to be occasionally used a little with the lining. It is often placed in very exposed situations in the hollow caused by the divergence of the branches from the trunk, at a height of ten or fifteen feet from the ground, but nevertheless the erection of it has often not been observed until after it has been fully completed. In 1848 one was taken on a high bough of a large elm, at Swanscombe, in Kent, as Mr. M. C. Cooke has informed me; others have been known near the summit of a tree, and others so low down as to be able to be looked into from the ground. Shy, too, as the bird is at other times, in its nidification it is not deterred from any appropriate situation by the near propinquity of a house, even where persons are constantly passing and repassing. This has been noticed in repeated instances, and has occurred close to my own former residence of Nafferton Vicarage, not more than ten or twelve feet from the ground, within a dozen yards of the house, and with hardly any attempt at concealment. The same tree will be often returned to year after year, if the birds be undisturbed, and Frederick Bond, Esq., of Kingsbury, has known the same nest used twice in the same season. They will suffer other species to build near them, so close as within a foot distance, and that without any

molestation even during the time of incubation, when to those who casually approach their nest they display unqualified hostility.

The eggs are from three or four to five, usually the latter, or sometimes six, it is said, in number, of a greenish or pale reddish white colour, spotted and blotted and more or less suffused irregularly with brown, reddish brown, or purple red, they vary in size as well as in colour and shape, some being nearly as large again as others. They are hatched in about sixteen days.

One is of a pale dull green, marked with some large reddish brown spots, and a few others of the same, chiefly about the base.

A second is of a dull yellowish brown, spotted with dull red spots, and a few others, chiefly of dull yellow and dull pink.

A third is of a pale dull yellowish white, speckled with small pale brown and pale yellowish-brown spots all over.

A fourth is of a pale dull brownish green, marked with dark brownish and yellowish spots chiefly at the smaller end.

A fifth is of a rather dull blue with some blots of pale brownish red.

A sixth is pale dull pinkish white with brown and red round spots all over.

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FIELDFARE.

FIELDFARE.

FELDFARE. FELT. FELTFARE. BLUE-BACK.
BLUE-TAIL. BLUE-FELT.

PLATE XCIX.

Turdus pilaris, LINNÆUS. LATHAM.

FIELDFARES build in societies, as many as two hundred nests and upwards having been found within a small circuit of the forest. The same situations appear to be resorted to from year to year from some cause of predilection or other, as with the Rooks.

The nest, which is placed in pine or fir trees, at a height of from four to forty feet from the ground, is made of small sticks, grass, and weeds, cemented together with a small quantity of clay, and lined with fine grass. It is for the most part placed against the trunk of the tree, but sometimes at a considerable distance from it, towards the smaller end of the thicker branches. Single nests however sometimes occur.

The hurried flight and loud harsh cries of the owners, if alarmed, readily lead to their discovery.

The eggs are from three to four, five, or six in number, of a pale bluish green, of different shades, spotted, mottled, and streaked with darker or lighter reddish brown. 'They are all sometimes so closely

freckled over that the colour of the freckles predominates; they all have a variety in which the ground colour is most seen, the red-brown spots being larger and much more sparingly sprinkled.'

Unfinished nests have been found, and others with newly-laid eggs in them, so late as the 30th. of May.

The ground part of one is dark grey, speckled with lighter and darker yellowish-red spots all over.

A second is bluish green, with light reddish brown spots mingled together, chiefly at the broad end.

A third is grey, spotted all over with larger and smaller dull yellowish red spots.

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REDWING.

REDWING.

SWINEPIPE. WIND THRUSH.

PLATE C.

Turdus Iliacus,	LINNÆUS.
Merula Iliaca,	JARDINE. SELBY.

THE nest is placed in the centre of a thorn or other bush, alder, birch, maple, or other tree, or a cluster of stems, and is made of moss, roots, and dry grass outwardly, cemented together with clay, and lined inwardly with finer grass.

Mr. Wolley says that this bird 'makes its nest near the ground, in an open part of the wood, generally in the outskirts, on a stump, a log, or the roots of a fallen tree; sometimes amongst a cluster of young stems of the birch, usually quite exposed, so as almost to seem as if placed so purposely—the walls often supported only by their foundation. The first or coarse part of the nest is made for the most part of dried bents, sometimes with fine twigs and moss; this is lined with a thin layer of mud, and then is added a thick bed of fine grass of the previous year, compactly woven together, which completes the structure. Outside is often a good deal of the kind of lichen called rein-deer moss, and one nest particularly, which I have preserved, is

entirely covered with it; when it was fresh, and the fine ramifications of the lichens unbroken, it had a most beautiful appearance.'

The eggs are said to be found at the end of May, or June, and to be towards six in number; they are of a pale bluish green, spotted with reddish brown.

J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has obligingly forwarded specimens of the nest and eggs. In some the ground is of a pale cream-colour, but almost covered over with light reddish streaks.

One variety is of a pale yellowish-red with a very few small brownish red spots.

A second is grounded with light green, handsomely marked with waves and spots of pale brownish red.

A third is of a dull green, intermingled with dull reddish brown.

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THRUSH.

THRUSH.

THROSTLE. SONG THRUSH. COMMON THRUSH. MAVIS.

PLATE CI.

Turdus musicus.	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Merula musica,	SELBY.

NIDIFICATION commences the latter end of March, and the eggs are deposited earlier or later in April, though sometimes not until May, according to the season. Nests have been known to have been begun even so early as the middle of February, but frost caused them to be deserted. The birds are correspondingly able to fly from the latter end of April to the middle of June, and have been known to have been hatched even on the last day of March. Mrs. Harriet Murchison, of Bicester, Oxfordshire, has forwarded me a specimen of a nest with four eggs, which was found at that place on the 6th. of January, 1853. A second brood is generally reared in the season, and if one set of eggs is destroyed, a second is produced in a fortnight, or even a third if need be. The female is extremely attentive to her charge, and will sit on the nest until quite closely approached, and will sometimes suffer herself to be taken sooner than forsake it. If you disturb and alarm her, she will testify her anxiety by flying round you with ruffled feathers and outspread tail, uttering a note of alarm, and violently snapping

the bill. If unmolested, both birds have been known to pick up crumbs of bread thrown down to them, and to give them to their young.

The nest is composed of moss, small twigs, straws, leaves, roots, stems of plants, and grass, compacted together with some tenacious substance with tolerable ingenuity, and is lined with a congeries of clay and decayed wood. It is placed in a hedge or thick bush of any kind at a small height from the ground, and likewise at times on a rough bank among moss, brambles, or shrubs, as also, where the country is unwooded, on the level ground, at the most under the shelter of some projecting stone or crag, in the crevice of a rock, or in a tuft of heath.

Mr. John H. Blundell, of Luton, Bedfordshire, informs me that he has found the nest of a Thrush in the side of a round wheat stack. The Rev. W. Waldo Cooper, of West Rasen, Lincolnshire, records in the 'Zoologist,' page 1775, that he has found one on the ground, three feet from the nearest bush; and at page 1023, John Barlow, Esq. relates a similar instance.

The eggs, usually four or five in number, are of a beautiful clear greenish blue colour, with more or fewer distinct black spots and dots, principally over the larger end. The youngest of my three boys, Marmaduke Charles Frederick Morris, has one entirely plain, with the exception of a single dot. N. Rowe, Esq., of Worcester College, has taken the eggs of a uniform blue, without any spots or specks; and J. R. Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has another of the same variety. James Dalton, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, has forwarded me another—they seem to be not very uncommon. They vary considerably in size: some are very small.

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WHITE'S THRUSH.
ROCK THRUSH.

WHITE'S THRUSH.

PLATE CII.—FIGURE I.

Turdus Whitei, EYTON. GOULD. YARRELL.

J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., has sent me a specimen of an egg, believed to be of this species; and which is accordingly figured in the plate.

ROCK THRUSH.

PLATE CII.—FIGURE II.

Turdus saxatilis,	TEMMINCK.
Petrocincla saxatilis,	VIGORS. GOULD.

THE nest is said to be made of moss. It is placed in crevices of rocks, whether those which have fallen down from their primæval resting-place, or those that still abide in the place of their hoar antiquity.

The eggs are described as being four or thereabouts in number, and of a greenish blue colour, without spots.

J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has forwarded me an egg, and Edwin Cottingham, Esq. drawings of two specimens, copied from the original eggs in the museum of J. Malcolm, Esq., Lamorbey, Halfway-Street, near Bexley, Kent, by his permission. These eggs have a beautiful glossy shell, and each of them a clear uniform tint of colour without spots or marks of any kind; the lightest-coloured variety is a trifle larger than the darkest, and not so pure and positive in colour, being of a neutral tone between a light grey and a very slight approach to a light bluish green.

DISCARD

BLACKBIRD.

BLACKBIRD.

PLATE CIII.

Turdus merula, PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Merula vulgaris, SELBY. GOULD.

THIS species pairs in February or March, but occasionally much earlier. Thus in the 'Yorkshire Gazette' of the 8th. of January, 1853, it is recorded that a nest with two eggs was found at Brompton, in this county, on the 3rd. of that month, by D. Ferguson, Esq. of Redcar.

The nest is placed in a variety of situations, and is frequently found in a heap of sticks, even though placed in an outhouse, or most commonly in a bush; sometimes in a tree against a wall, or in a tree or wall covered with ivy; an instance has been known of its being placed on the stump of a tree, close to the ground, and Sir William Jardine found one on the ground, at the foot of a tree; another was also seen in a similar situation, at the foot of a hazel bush, in a wood, by my friend the Rev. W. Waldo Cooper, of West Rasen, Lincolnshire: in the same wood he saw another on the stump of a hazel which had been cut down, and from which several stems had grown; it was not raised an inch from the ground, but was quite surrounded by the new branches. Another on the

ground has been recorded in the Zoologist, page 1023, by W. W. Spicer, Esq. Mr. John H. Blundell, of Luton, Bedfordshire, has written me word of his having found the nest in one instance on the ground, in the middle of a large plantation of oaks. It is often put in a hedge, and is commonly built at a height of three or four feet; also in a hole in a wall or rock. In some instances it has been known, when placed in or against the branch of a tree, to be in some degree fastened to it by a twining and lacing of the larger of the materials of which it is composed, and in one case, the space between the branch of a tree, on which it was placed, and a wall, was filled up with straw and hay. It is made of roots, small twigs, and stalks of grass, with perhaps some lichens or fern, and is covered on the inside with mud, and lined with finer parts of the other materials and grass; it is sometimes most admirably hidden in a hollow in a bank, so as almost to baffle detection. It is at times placed on the top of a fence or the summit of a wall. The same situation is occasionally resorted to from year to year. N. Rowe, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, writes me word of a pair of Blackbirds which built their nest in the same spot in a laurel tree that had been previously tenanted the same year by a pair of Greenfinches, who in their turn had succeeded a pair of Thrushes. The female sits for thirteen days.

The eggs are commonly five in number, sometimes four, and sometimes, though but rarely, six; they are of a dull light blue or greenish brown colour, mottled and spotted with pale reddish brown, the markings being closer at the larger end, where they sometimes form an obscure ring. Mr. Hewitson, in his 'Coloured Illustrations of the Eggs of British Birds,' figures one

elegantly covered over at the larger end with minute reddish-brown specks, and likewise, but less thickly, over the remainder—the green shewing through; and a second curiously marbled with irregular dashes and specks of reddish brown over the green colour. Another variety is similar to the last, except that the ground colour is lighter, and the spots smaller. Another, in his possession, clear spotless light blue, with the whole of the larger end suffused with reddish brown. J. B. Ellman, Esq., of Battel, relates in the 'Zoologist,' page 2180, that he had an egg in which the spots were at the smaller end. Some of the eggs are much larger than others, and they also vary much in colour and markings, as too in shape, some being much more round, and others much more oval, than others: in some instances, the smaller end is rounded and obtuse.

One is grounded with light green, marked with small faint pale yellowish-red streak-like spots all over.

A second is of a dark dull brownish green, spotted with yellowish-red spots.

A third is green, with rather large brown spots all over.

A fourth is of a pale green.

A fifth is of a greyish white, with yellowish marbled indistinct spots all over.

A sixth is grounded with grey, mottled all over with green.

A seventh is of a dull bluish white, with a few light yellowish-brown spots and dots.

James Dalton, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, has forwarded me two good varieties, one of very small size, and the other light clear greenish blue, like a Starling's.

RING OUZEL.

ROCK OUZEL. RING THRUSH. MOUNTAIN BLACKBIRD. MOOR BLACKBIRD.

PLATE CIV.

Turdus torquatus,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Merula torquata,	SELBY. GOULD.

THE nest is built among the heather upon a ledge or in some hollow of the grey and hoary rock, whose weather-beaten front tells of many a cold and wintry blast, that has swept, age after age, over the wild and desolate moor or the barren mountain side, at the foot of which perhaps you may hear the splashing of some waterfall, the end of a silver thread which has wound its way down from above. It is hidden more or less by a tuft of heath, the root of a tree, a large stone, or a projection of the rock in which it is placed: those found in the more southerly counties were placed at a height of about five or six feet from the ground in such a situation as a yew tree or ivy-clad elm. It measures about seven inches in diameter, about three and a half in depth on the outside, and about two inches inside. It is composed of dry grasses, heather, stems, or stalks, thickly matted together, with here and there an occasional leaf; on the inside it is

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RING OUZEL.

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lined, according to some, with mud, within which a gain is another lining of similar materials to those of which the outside is compacted. When the young are hatched, the parent birds naturally fly at and about any intruder.

The eggs are pale greenish blue, sparingly freckled with pale purple and reddish-brown markings, except at the larger end, where those obscurations are confluent, and entirely conceal the ground colour. They are four or five in number, sometimes, it is said, six.

The plate is from an egg sent to W. R. Fisher, Esq. by Mr. Heysham.

GOLDEN ORIOLE.

PLATE CV.

Oriolus galbula, PENNANT. MONTAGU. BEWICK.

THE nest is flat in shape, and placed in the angle formed by the branching boughs of a tall tree, to which it is firmly attached. It is made of stalks of grass, small roots, and wool, cleverly interwoven together, and is lined with the finer portions of the materials. One taken in Kent, is described by J. B. Ellman, Esq., of Rye, in the, 'Zoologist,' page 2496, as having been suspended from the extreme end of the topmost bough of an oak tree, and composed entirely of wool, carefully bound together with dried grass.

The eggs are commonly four or five in number, of a clear white colour, sometimes with a tinge of purple, and a few spots of black, brownish black, or grey, and claret-colour.

One of a greyish white, speckled with small brown spots.

A second is also whitish, with large dark brown spots.

A third is grounded with pale white, with some small and large spots all over.

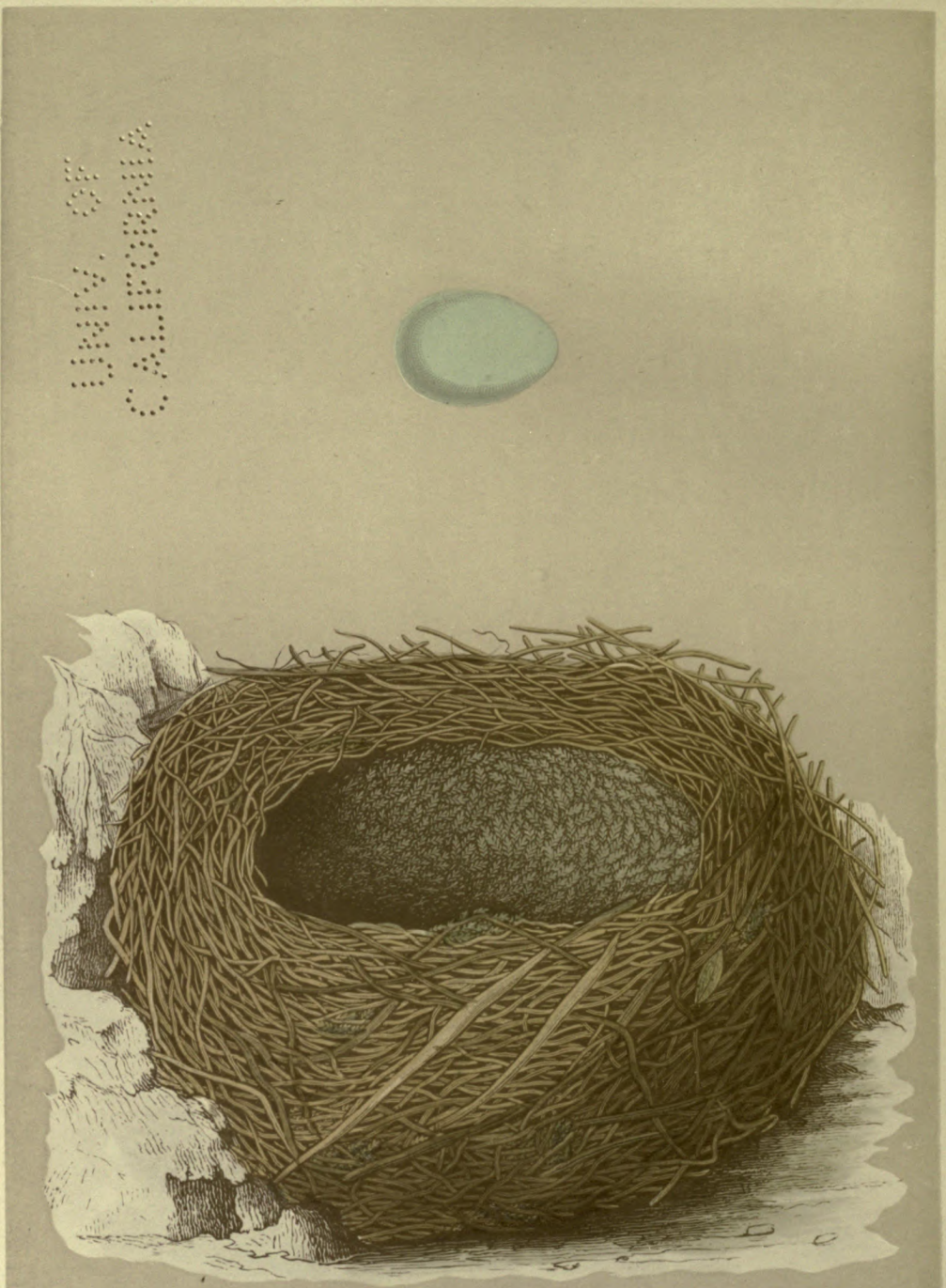
Edwin Cottingham, Esq., of Bexley, has obliged me with a drawing of the eggs; and Henry Saxby, Esq., of Bonchurch, Isle of Wight, with another. J. R. Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, with a specimen of the egg itself.

GOLDEN ORIOLE.

CV

DO NOT
REMOVE

DISCARD



ALPINE WARBLER.

CVI

ALPINE WARBLER.

ALPINE ACCENTOR. COLLARED STARE.

PLATE CVI.

Accentor alpinus,	FLEMING. SELBY.
Motacilla alpina,	GMELIN.
Sturnus collaris,	GMELIN. LATHAM.
Sturnus moritanicus,	GMELIN. LATHAM.

THE nest is placed among stones, or in some cavity or crevice of mountain rock, likewise at times, it is said, on the roofs of houses in such situations, as also under the shelter of the alpine rose or other low bush. It is made of moss and fine grass, and is lined with wool and hair.

The eggs, four or five in number are of a beautiful light greenish-blue colour. There are said to be two broods in the year.

W. F. W. Bird, Esq. has kindly forwarded me a drawing of the egg, from one in the fine collection of the Right Honourable Lord Garvagh.

DUNNOCK.

SHUFFLE-WING. HEDGE-WARBLER.
HEDGE-SPARROW. HEDGE-CHANTER. WINTER FAUVETTE.

PLATE CVII.

Accentor modularis,	JENYNS.
Motacilla modularis,	LINNÆUS.
Sylvia modularis,	LATHAM.
Curruca sepiaria,	BRISSON.

THE nest is generally placed in hedges, low furze or other bushes, or shrubs, a few feet from the ground, but also in lack of these, in holes of walls, stacks of wood, in the ivy against a wall; and other similar places. The Rev. Charles Forge of Driffield, records in the 'Zoologist,' pages 658-9, that he found one among the small branches of an elm tree, standing apart from any hedge. It was placed close to the bole or trunk of the tree, at about ten feet from the ground. Exteriorly, it was composed of wheat straw, intermingled with small recently-dead twigs of the elm, to which the dried leaves were still attached. It had no other lining than the green moss commonly used by the Hedge-Chanter in the construction of its nest, and contained a single egg. One has been known built on a disused garden roller. An outhouse is sometimes made use of for the purpose. A pair

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DUNNOCK.

built and reared their young in the aviary of Mr. Thomas Walker, of Rosebank, Tunbridge Wells.

It is deep and well rounded, and from four and a half to five inches in diameter on the outside, and nearly two inches deep. It is made of small twigs and grass, lined with moss, and then with hair, grass, wool, or down, or any appropriate substances at hand.

W. Bridger, Esq., has forwarded me a specimen.

The eggs, which are sometimes seen so early as the beginning of April, are four or five, rarely six, though sometimes it is said, seven, in number, and of a very elegant greenish-blue colour, with a rather glossy surface. Archibald Hepburn, Esq., records in the 'Zoologist,' page 434, his having seen an egg of this species, which was thrown out of the nest by the parents, and was of a bluish white colour, mottled and speckled with light brown; it was much rounder than the usual shape, and was empty inside.

Incubation lasts eleven days, and two broods are often reared in the year; preparations for one being made about the middle of March, and for the latter, at the beginning of May: three are sometimes hatched. Meyer, in his 'British Birds,' mentions his having seen a nest on the 21st. of January, and that he found one with a newly-laid egg in it on the 22nd. of July. The same situation is frequently resorted to from year to year.

REDBREAST.

ROBIN. ROBIN REDBREAST. RUDDOCK. ROBINET.

PLATE CVIII.

Sylvia rubecula,	PENNANT. FLEMING.
Motacilla rubecula,	MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Erythaca rubecula,	SELBY. GOULD.

NIDIFICATION commences very early in the spring, and the eggs are usually laid about the beginning of April; but young birds have often been found in the nest by the end of March. In backward seasons they are usually later. Mr. Macgillivray mentions one seen on the 9th. of May, 1831, and another on the 2nd. of June, 1837, which he believed to be the first brood of that year. A Robin's nest containing several eggs, was taken near York the first week in February, 1844, there being snow on the ground at the time, and the temperature ranging from 30° to 23° Fahrenheit; another, which had five eggs, was found at Moreton-in-the Marsh, in the second week of January, 1848; another, with the like number of eggs, in a garden at Wheldrake, near York, the 10th. of the same month; and one, also with eggs, near Belfast on the 20th. of February, 1846. A nest with two eggs, on which the hen bird was sitting, was found near the end

REDBREAST.

CVIII

of November, 1851, at Gribton, Dumfriesshire, the seat of Francis Maxwell, Esq.

The nest of the Robin, which is built of fine stalks, moss, dried leaves, and grass, and lined with hair and wool, with sometimes a few feathers, is generally placed on a bank under the shelter of a bush, or sometimes in a bush itself, at a low height from the ground, and occasionally in a hole in a wall covered with ivy, a crevice in a rock, among fern and tangled roots—the entrance perhaps being through some very narrow aperture, or an ivy-clad tree. It measures about five inches and three quarters across, and two and a half in internal diameter. It is concealed with great care and success. W. Bridger, Esq. has kindly forwarded me a specimen among a number of others.

His late Majesty King William the Fourth had a part of the mizen-mast of the Victory, against which Lord Nelson was standing when he was mortally wounded, placed in a building in the grounds of Bushy Park when he resided there. A large shot had passed through this part of the mast, and in the hole it had left, a pair of Robins built their nest and reared their young. The relic was afterwards removed to the dining-room of the house, and is now in the armoury of Windsor Castle. 'Victoria pacem.'

A loft is frequently built in, and in one instance, the nest having been obliged to be removed, for an alteration in the wall, the hen bird did not forsake it, though placed elsewhere, even while dislodged mortar and stones fell dangerously near her. A nest was placed on a shelf in a pantry, among some four-sided bottles, so that it was made of a square shape. When the housekeeper had to go in for any article, the bird, instead of flying out of the window, as might have

been expected, alighted on the floor till she had gone, when it immediately returned to its nest.

Mr. Jesse relates the following:—'A gentleman had directed a waggon to be packed, intending to send it to Worthing, where he himself was going. For some reason his journey was delayed, and he therefore directed that the waggon should be placed in a shed in the yard, packed as it was, till it should be convenient for him to send it off. While it was in the shed, a pair of Robins built their nest among some straw in it, and had hatched their young just before it was sent off. One of the old birds, instead of being frightened away by the motion of the waggon, only left the nest from time to time for the purpose of flying to the nearest hedge for food for its young, and thus alternately affording warmth and nourishment to them, it arrived at Worthing. The affection of this bird having been observed by the waggoner, he took care in unloading not to disturb the Robin's nest; and the Robin and its young returned in safety to Walton Heath, being the place from whence they had set out; the distance travelled not being less than one hundred miles. Whether it was the male or female Robin which kept with the waggon I have not been able to ascertain; but most probably the latter; for what will not a mother's love and a mother's tenderness induce her to do?'

The eggs, generally five or six in number, are of a delicate pale reddish white, faintly freckled with rather darker red, most so at the larger end, where a zone or belt is sometimes formed. Some are entirely white. N. Rowe, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, has written me word of five eggs, found in the elegant gardens of that, my own, college, whose 'classic shades,

I so well remember, and which were quite white and spotless. He also tells me since of a nest and eggs taken near Exeter on New Year's Day, 1853. My friend E. C. Taylor, Esq., of Kirkham Abbey, Yorkshire, has forwarded me one of the like colour, found in a nest in that beautiful neighbourhood, my own, as I may call it, through the tie of property and former residence.

One is greyish white, spotted with yellowish red, and brownish red, with which the base is much covered.

A second is greyish white, spotted with light rust-red, but most so at the thicker end.

A third is greyish, with light yellowish red spots all over, run together at the base.

I may here perhaps make the following quotation from my 'History of British Birds:'—

'Gentle reader, if indeed you be of gentle blood, and will read the following touching lines of the poet Thomson, descriptive of the return of a bereaved parent bird to her robbed home, if ever you have plundered a Robin's nest, or that of any other bird, let me hope that you will 'steal no more:'—

> ——'To the ground the vain provision falls!
> Her pinions ruffle, and, low drooping, scarce
> Can bear the mourner to the poplar shade,
> Where, all abandoned to despair, she sings
> Her sorrows through the night, and on the bough
> Sole sitting, still at every dying fall
> Takes up again her lamentable strain
> Of winding woe, till wide around the woods
> Sigh to her song, and with her wail resound.'

'Here is no 'poetic license,' but if you think there is, the following well-written 'plain prose' of the amiable Mr. Jesse will satisfy the possible

doubt:—'I had an opportunity,' he writes in his 'Gleanings in Natural History,' 'this summer of witnessing the distress of a Robin when, on returning to her nest with food for her young, she discovered that they had dissappeared. Her low and plaintive wailings were incessant. She appeared to seek for them among the neighbouring bushes, now and then changing her mournful cry into one which seemed like a call to her brood to come to her. She kept the food in her mouth for a short time, but when she found that her cries were unanswerable, let it fall to the ground.'

'So also Virgil, though speaking of a different species, in his Fourth Georgic, for Nature was the same eighteen hundred years ago as she is now,—

> 'Qualis populeâ mærens philomela sub umbrâ
> Amissos queritur fœtus, quos duros arator
> Observans nido implumes detraxit: at illa
> Flet noctem, ramoque sedens, misèrabile carmen
> Integrat, et mæstis late loca quæstibus implet.'

'Thus well rendered by Dryden—

> 'So, close in poplar shades, her children gone,
> The mother nightingale laments alone,
> Whose nest some prying churl had found, and thence
> By stealth convey'd the unfeathered innocents:
> But she supplies the night with mournful strains,
> And melancholy music fills the plains.'

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BLUEBREAST.

CIX

BLUEBREAST.

BLUE-THROATED WARBLER. BLUE-THROATED REDSTART.
BLUE-THROATED ROBIN.

PLATE CIX.

Sylvia Suecica,	JENYNS.
Motacilla Suecica,	BEWICK.
Phœnicura Suecica,	SELBY. GOULD.
Ficedula Suecica,	EYTON. BECHSTEIN.
Curruca Suecica,	SELBY.

THE nest is placed on the ground, among the larger herbage, on the sides of banks, and among low brushwood. It is well concealed, and is composed of dried grass and a little moss, the blossoms of the reed, leaves, small stalks, and roots, and is lined with finer moss, hair, and the beautiful down of the cotton-grass.

There are two broods, and the first is sometimes on the wing so early as the end of May. The male assists the female in the work of incubation.

The eggs are four, or five, or six in number, and of a greenish-blue colour. The shell is very delicate and fragile. J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq. has forwarded me a specimen for the use of this work.

One is of a greyish green, spotted with a few pale reddish spots.

A second is of a greyish green, spotted with red, more at the thicker end.

A third is of a light yellowish green, faintly spotted with red.

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REDSTART.

CX

REDSTART.

RED-TAIL. FIRE-TAIL. BRAN-TAIL. FIERY BRAN-TAIL.

PLATE CX.

Sylvia Phœnicurus,	LATHAM. PENNANT.
Phœnicura ruticilla,	SELBY. SWAINSON.
Ruticilla Phœnicurus,	MACGILLIVRAY.
Motacilla Phœnicurus,	MONTAGU.

THE nest, which is more or less well concealed, and rather loosely constructed, is built of moss, dry grass, and leaves, and lined with hair and feathers. It is frequently placed in a hole in an old wall, under the eaves of a house, in a hollow or hole in a tree, or even between the branches of one, as also against a wall, if extraneous support is afforded. One has been known to have been placed in a watering-pot, others in flower-pots, and one in a hole in the ground, even where such a choice was not made from necessity. It is frequently placed close to or in the wall of a house, and that where persons are constantly passing, even within reach of the hand. Another has been known also placed on the ground under an inverted flower-pot; the hen bird successfully reared her brood, the flower-pot, which was at first unwittingly removed, having been replaced by the Rev. J. C. Atkinson, who relates the circumstance

in 'The Zoologist,' page 355. Bishop Stanley mentions one he had known 'built on the narrow space between the gudgeons or narrow upright irons on which a garden door was hung; the bottom of the nest, of course, resting on the iron hinge, which must have shaken it every time the door was opened. Nevertheless, there she sat, in spite of all the inconvenience and publicity, exposed as she was to all who were constantly passing to and fro. Another has been known in like manner to sit through the din of three looms at work from five o'clock in the morning until ten at night, within twelve feet of the nest. The same situation, if the birds have been undisturbed, is frequently resorted to from year to year. One pair have been known to revisit the same garden for sixteen seasons in succession: a pair resorted for four successive years to the ventilator of a stable. The female is sedulously devoted to her eggs or young, and will sometimes suffer herself to be touched before flying off from the nest; if, however, they be molested she will forsake it: both birds indeed are most assiduous in their attentions to their brood, one or other of them being to be seen in constant motion, conveying food to them, or retiring in search of it. In one instance, the male bird having been killed while the hen was sitting, another partner joined the widow, and became foster-father to the orphaned family.' It has been known to lay its eggs in the nest of a Titmouse.

The following was in the 'Ipswich Journal' of June 11th., 1853:—'In the gardens at Holbrook House, the residence of Miss Reade, a little bird called the Redtail has built a nest in an inverted flower-pot, six and a half inches deep, and seven inches wide at the top. The hole in the bottom, or rather the top as the pot

stands, is one and a half inches over, and through this the little bird has carried the whole of the materials for its nest, which is formed on the side of the pot. Six eggs were laid, from which five young ones were hatched; and our correspondent has promised to give us the particulars as to their mode of escape at some future time. The pot stands by the side of a gravel walk, at a spot where the family and gardener are continually passing.'

The eggs, which are of a uniform light greenish blue colour, are generally from four to six or seven in number, but occasionally so many as eight have been found. They much resemble those of the Dunnock, but are of a paler colour, and a more slender and delicate form, as well as considerably smaller.

Two broods are frequently reared in the year, the first being away by the middle of June.

BLACKSTART.

BLACK REDSTART. BLACK RED-TAIL. TITHYS-REDSTART.

PLATE CXI.

Sylvia Tithys,	Jenyns.
Sylvia Gibraltariensis,	Latham.
Phœnicura Tithys,	Gould. Selby.
Ficedula Tithys,	Eyton.
Motacilla atrata,	

THE nest, which is rather large, is placed among the clefts of stones or rocks, and also in the holes of walls and ruins, the spires, towers, and higher parts of Churches, and the roofs of houses. It is formed of grasses, moss, wool, and the dry stalks and fibres of plants, and is lined more or less with hair or feathers. 'It is,' says W. R. Fisher, Esq., of Yarmouth, 'formed of almost any material which is suitable and can be readily obtained. I have found it composed of grey worsted, taken from a loose ball which was lying in a garret.'

The eggs are from five to seven in number, and of a very pure glossy white in colour, and the shell peculiarly fragile and transparent. I have been favoured by R. W. Hawkins, Esq., of Rugeley, Staffordshire, with the nest and egg of this bird, taken at Longdon.

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BLACKSTART.

CXI

The young are hatched after thirteen days incubation. Two broods are not unoften reared in the year, the first being hatched by the beginning of May, and the second soon following it—being abroad in June. The same situation is frequently returned to year after year.

STONECHAT.

STONECHATTER. STONECLINK. STONE-SMITH.
MOOR-TITLING. BLACK-CAP.

PLATE CXII.

Sylvia rubicola,	PENNANT.
Motacilla Tschecautschia,	GMELIN.
Motacilla rubicola,	MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Saxicola rubicola,	FLEMING. SELBY.
Œnanthe nostra tertia,	RAY. WILLUGHBY.

THESE birds pair in March, and commence building towards the end of that month.

The nest, which is large and loosely put together, and composed of moss, dry grass, and fibrous roots, or heath, lined with hair and feathers, and sometimes with wool, is placed among the grass or other herbage at the bottom of a furze or other bush, or in the bush itself, as also in heather, and even occasionally in some neighbouring hedge, adjoining the open ground which the bird frequents. It is exceedingly difficult to find, on account of its situation in the middle of a cluster of whin bushes—such not admitting of the most easy access—the female also sitting very close, and, when off the nest, being very watchful of all your movements, hopping quickly from bush to bush, and disappearing suddenly by retreat into cover.

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STONECHAT.

CXII

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CALIFORNIA

The eggs, generally five or six in number, rarely seven, are of a pale greyish or greenish blue colour, the larger end minutely speckled with dull reddish brown. They are laid the middle or latter end of April, sometimes in the earlier part of that month, and have been known so late as the 12th. of July—perhaps a second brood.

One variety is grounded with a dull greyish green, marked with very small pale dull reddish spots all over.

A second is of a dull greyish white, marked with small reddish spots chiefly at the thicker end, and other minute yellowish ones all over.

A third is of a pale dull grey green, with some light reddish spots over the surface.

WHINCHAT.

GRASSCHAT. FURZECHAT.

PLATE CXIII.

Sylvia rubetra,	PENNANT.
Motacilla rubetra,	MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Saxicola rubetra,	FLEMING. SELBY.
Rubetra major,	BRISSON.
Œnanthe secunda,	RAY.

THE nest is placed in the lower part of a gorse bush, a few inches above the ground, where the thorns and stalks are dying off, so that the materials of the nest assimilate in appearance to the situation in which it is placed, and it is thus the rather screened from observation. More frequently it is placed in the grass at the foot of it, and has been known in a hedge adjoining a road. Where there are no gorse bushes, it is placed among rough grass in a pasture field, or in a meadow. Henry Stowe, Esq., of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, took one near Brackley in Northamptonshire, built so near the edge of a pond that the nest was quite wet. It is loosely built of stalks of grass and moss, and is lined with finer portions of the former; a layer of wool has been known between the two, and occasionally some hair or leaves: it measures six inches across, and two and a half internally. It is very carefully

BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA

WHINCHAT

CXIII

concealed, and extremely difficult to find; the bird approaching it stealthily by a labyrinthine track.

The eggs are of a glossy bluish green colour, with some minute specks, and sometimes, though very rarely, of dull reddish brown; they are five or six in number, usually the latter, very rarely seven.

One is grounded with fine deep greenish blue.

A second is of a paler bluish green.

A third sort is very dull greenish blue, with a few reddish spots.

The young are hatched towards the end of May, and two broods are produced in the season, the first being abroad from the middle of June to the beginning of July, and the second in August.

Edwin Cottingham, Esq. has favoured me with a drawing of the nest and eggs.

BLACK-THROATED WHEATEAR.

PLATE CXIII*.—FIGURE I.

Saxicola stapazina, VIELLOT.

THE nest is a loose structure of stems of grass etc., and is placed in holes and crevices in old walls and buildings.

The eggs are of a pale greenish tint, speckled with brown.

ISABELLINE WHEATEAR.

PLATE CXIII*.—FIGURE II.

Saxicola isabellina, RÜPPELL.

THE nest is usually placed in the burrows of small animals.

The egg appears to be of a dull white colour.

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BLACK-THROATED WHEATEAR.
ISABELLINE WHEATEAR.
DESERT WHEATEAR.

DESERT WHEATEAR.

PLATE CXIII*.—FIGURE III.

Saxicola deserti, RÜPPELL.

THE nest is placed in holes and crevices in rocks and walls, as also in the burrows of animals, and under bushes.

The eggs are of a greenish blue colour.

WHEATEAR.

FALLOW-CHAT. WHITE-TAIL. STONE-CHACKER.
CHACK-BIRD. CLOD-HOPPER.

PLATE CXIV.—FIGURE I.

Sylvia œnanthe,	PENNANT. LATHAM.
Motacilla œnanthe,	LINNÆUS. MONTAGU. GMELIN.
Motacilla œnanthe,	WILLUGHBY. RAY.
Saxicola œnanthe,	FLEMING. SELBY. BECHSTEIN.

THE nest, which is commenced the middle of May, is sometimes well hid in the innermost recess of some crevice among rocks, in an old wall, stone-quarry, gravel-pit, or chalk-pit, and frequently in a deserted rabbit-burrow, or the hollow under some large clod, tuft, or stone. Mr. Hewitson has known one in the bank of a river, in a hole deserted by a Sand Martin. It is rudely constructed of fine dry stalks of grass or moss, feathers or wool, rabbits' fur, hair, or any other 'odds and ends' that may chance to be procurable.

The eggs, usually from four to six in number, sometimes, though very rarely, seven, are of an elegant rather elongated form, and of a uniform delicate pale blue colour, deepest at the larger end. A. J. Drake, Esq. has some varieties quite white.

One is of a dull greyish green, with a few distinct reddish spots all over.

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WHEATEAR.
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.

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A second is of a dull greyish green without any spots.

A third variety is of a dull greyish green, with a few very small reddish spots.

The young are abroad from the middle of May to June, so that a second brood is frequently reared before the end of July.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.

CRICKET BIRD.

PLATE CXIV.—FIGURE II.

Sylvia locustella,	PENNANT. MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Curruca locustella,	FLEMING.
Salicaria locustella,	SELBY.
Locustella avicula,	GOULD. RAY.

THE nest, of a cup shape, is formed in a rather firm manner of reeds or grass, with sometimes a little moss, lined with finer portions of the same. It is difficult to find, owing to the careful habits of the bird, and is placed on the ground, and has been met with at the foot of a small bush by the road side; it is completely hidden in the middle of some large tuft, through which there is no entrance but such as the bird threads for herself, creeping along like a mouse to and into it.

The eggs are from five or six to seven in number, of a pale reddish white colour, freckled all over with specks of darker red; they seldom vary much.

The young soon quit the nest on being disturbed, trusting by instinct to their habitual powers of concealment.

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SAVI'S WARBLER.

CXV

SAVI'S WARBLER.

PLATE CXV.

Sylvia luscinoides, GOULD.
Salicaria luscinoides, YARRELL.

THE nest, which is placed on the ground, is formed of the leaves of the reed, wound round and interlaced, but without any other lining.

It is begun the middle or towards the end of May, by which time, or early in June, the eggs are laid. Both birds sit, and very sedulously.

The eggs are of a whitish colour, minutely speckled nearly all over with pale red and light grey, in some the red, and in others the grey, predominating.

One, figured by Professor Thieneman, is mottled over on a grey ground with small yellow blots.

SEDGE WARBLER.

SEDGE BIRD. SEDGE WREN. REED FAUVETTE.

PLATE CXVI.

Sylvia salicaria	LATHAM.
Sylvia Phragmitis,	TEMMINCK.
Salicaria Phragmitis,	SELBY.
Calamoherpe Phragmitis,	MACGILLIVRAY.

N. Rowe, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, has taken the nest in a Seringa tree. It is usually placed at about two, and never at a greater height than three or four feet from the ground, on a stump of a willow or alder tree, but generally among the tall grass or flags that grow along the side of the river or pool. G. B. Clarke, Esq., of Woburn, has been kind enough to forward me specimens of the nest and eggs. So has also James Dalton Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford. The nest is made of stalks of grass, and other smaller plants, lined with finer parts of the same and hair: it is rather large, and but loosely put together. Selby says that moss is sometimes used. The young leave the nest very soon.

The eggs, four, or generally five, Sir William Jardine says six or seven, in number, are of a pale yellowish-brown colour, marked with light brown and dull grey. They are usually closely freckled all over.

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SEDGE WARBLER.

CXVI

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Mr. Heysham mentions a nest which contained three quite white. Sometimes they are uniform dull yellow: they are laid early in May.

One variety consists chiefly of pale olive brown, with a thin waved streak at the thicker end.

A second is grounded with very pale yellowish green, with one very thin waved black streak at the thick end.

A third is of a greyish colour, thickly mottled all over with green.

The above are figured by Professor Thieneman.

REED WARBLER.

NIGHT WARBLER. REED WREN.

PLATE CXVII.

Sylvia arundinacea,	PENNANT. BEWICK
Motacilla arundinacea,	MONTAGU.
Curruca arundinacea,	FLEMING.
Salicaria arundinacea,	SELBY. GOULD.
Passer arundinacea minor,	RAY.

THE nest is a very artistical piece of work, and is generally placed between three, four, or five stems of the common reed that grow near to one another, at a height commonly of about three feet above the water, but one has been known as much as nine feet from the ground. To these the self-taught architect fastens the cordage that supports her tent, twining and interlacing it, that is, part of the materials of which it is composed, round and round them at intervals, until the whole is firmly fixed, not so firmly, however, but that the reeds may be easily slipped out without injuring the structure. It is formed of dried grass, long stalks, dry leaves, lichens, and wool, as also at times some moss, and is lined with the blossom of the reed. It generally consists of two parts, a loose foundation of the first-named materials, and the actual nest,

REED WARBLER.

which is composed almost exclusively of the last-named. This upper part can sometimes be detached from the lower, as if from a socket, the whole being narrow and deep to secure the eggs when the reeds are so swayed down, that the frail fabric, the bird all the while sitting in it, is often brought close to the very water's edge. The depth outside is from about three to five inches, and the inside about three, by about three in width at the top and two at the bottom. The nest, however, is not invariably placed among reeds; it is at times found in a blackthorn, whitethorn, willow, or among the clustering branches of an osier bed. Mr. Sweet met with one in the low part of a poplar tree, and Mr. Bolton another in a hazel bush. It is said that the nests of birds of the first and second year's age are not so neatly finished as those whose builders have had more experience. When destroyed sometimes by floods, even two or three times, these birds have been known by Mr. Briggs to build a fourth. James Dalton, Esq., of Worcester College Oxford, has taken one suspended in a box tree, near the piece of water which is there so great an ornament. N. Rowe, Esq., of the same College, has found it in a lilac tree. G. B. Clarke, Esq., of Woburn, has also forwarded to me specimens of the nest and eggs of the present species, as have likewise J. G. Bonney, Esq., and Mr. Dalton.

The eggs, usually four, but sometimes five or six in number, are of a dull greenish white colour, spotted and freckled with darker greyish green and light brown. In some instances the spots are almost black, in others inclining to a brownish green; occasionally the egg is marked with one or two little black lines at the broad end. The arrangement of the spots is endless—some varieties are equally marked all over; in some the spots

are in a ring round the broad end; in others the base is covered; some are but slightly marked; others are completely clouded over; one rare variety has been seen almost white, faintly mottled with pale grey blots; some quite white have been known. They are frequently not laid until after the beginning of June.

One is of a greyish white, with one or two greyish blots, and a few lighter spots of the same.

A second is of a greenish white, with some handsome and distinct green blots.

A third is of a dark greyish green, mottled over with spots of a dark green.

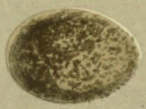
A fourth variety is grounded with very pale yellowish white, and some spots of a darkish green, chiefly at and about the thicker end.

A fifth is of a dark greyish green, with some dark green spots.

A sixth is of a greyish green, covered over with darker green spots.

The young are hatched in July, and are said to quit the nest soon, being able, before acquiring the art of flying, to make their way about the stalks of the reeds with their parents.

CORNELL



AQUATIC WARBLER.

CXVII*

AQUATIC WARBLER.

PLATE CXVII*.

Acrocephalus aquaticus, GMELIN.

THE nest is composed of the ordinary materials, moss, grass, with hair and leaves, and is built on or near the ground in any coarse cover.

The eggs are of rather pale dull green, blotted with a darker colour all over.

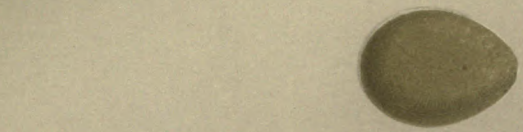
NIGHTINGALE.

PLATE CXVIII.

Sylvia luscinia,	Pennant. Temminck.
Motacilla luscinia,	Montagu. Bewick.
Curruca luscinia,	Fleming.
Philomela luscinia,	Selby. Gould.

THE nest of the Nightingale, which is almost always placed on the ground, in some natural hollow, amongst the roots of a tree, on a bank, or at the foot of a hedgerow, though sometimes two or three feet from the surface, is very loosely put together, and is formed of various materials, such as dried stalks of grasses, and leaves, small fibrous roots, and bits of bark, lined with a few hairs and the finer portions of the grass. It is about five inches and a half in external diameter, by about three internally, and about three and a half deep.

The eggs, of a regular oval form, are of a uniform glossy dull olive-brown colour. They are sometimes tinged with greyish blue, especially at the smaller end; some are greenish, others brownish green; some are paler, mottled with olive brown; and some are longer in shape than others. They are four or five to six in number. They are laid in May, and are rather large for the size of the bird. The male and female both sit on them, but the latter the most. The young,



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CALIFORNIA

NIGHTINGALE.

CXVIII

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

which are hatched in June, often leave the nest and hop about on the ground in its neighbourhood before they are able to fly.

Here again let me 'enter a plaint' in behalf of the bird and her nest. He who takes a Nightingale's nest robs his neighbour as well as the owner of it, and is guilty at once of burglary and petty larceny. Mr. Meyer observes, 'The attachment of this species to its young, and its grief at their loss, have been noticed by many writers, ancient and modern. Our friend, the Rev. E. J. Moor, sends us, on this subject, a memorandum from his journal: 'One evening while I was at college,' he says, 'happening to drink tea with the late Rev. J. Lambert, fellow of Trinity College, he told me the following facts illustrative of Virgil's extreme accuracy in describing natural objects. We had been speaking of those well-known lovely lines in the fourth Georgic on the Nightingale's lamentation for the loss of her young, when Mr. Lambert told me that riding once through one of the toll-gates near Cambridge, he observed the keeper of the gate and his wife, who were aged persons, apparently much dejected. Upon inquiring into the cause of their uneasiness, the man assured Mr. Lambert that he and his wife had both been made very unhappy by a Nightingale, which had built in their garden, and had the day before been robbed of its young. This loss she had been deploring in such a melancholy strain all the night, as not only to deprive him and his wife of sleep, but also to leave them in the morning full of sorrow; from which they had evidently not recovered when Mr. Lambert saw them.'

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE.

PLATE CXIX.

Sylvia Turdoides,	MEYER.
Philomela Turdoides,	BLYTH. GOULD.

THE nest is built in small thickets, but most frequently in low and damp situations.

The eggs are of a brownish olive-colour, stained with deep brown.

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THRUSH NIGHTINGALE.

CXIX

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GREAT SEDGE WARBLER.

GREAT SEDGE WARBLER.

PLATE CXX.

Salicaria Turdoides. SELBY.

THE nest is located among the stalks of reeds, and is almost entirely composed of the blossoms and tops of reeds and other grasses, to about the thickness of an inch, laced together with their stalks and leaves.

The eggs are four or five in number, obtuse, greenish white, spotted with black and ash-colour. In some the ground colour has a tint of olive. A variety in the collection of Mr. Salmon is tinted with light blue sparingly spotted.

One is of a greenish white, spotted with grey and brown spots, and one or two yellowish brown ones.

A second is of a light brownish yellow, with large brown and dull yellowish-green spots.

A third is grounded with grey, spotted with a few dull yellowish-green spots, and some bluish grey ones.

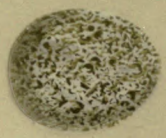
A fourth is of dark green, spotted with one or two greenish yellow blots, and some reddish brown ones.

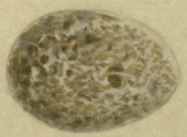
The ground of a fifth is yellowish green, spotted with darker yellow and brown.

W. F. W. Bird, Esq. has kindly sent me a drawing of an egg from the fine collection of Lord Garvagh,

and his Lordship has also let me have the egg itself. C. G. Tottenham, Esq., and J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., have also favoured me with the loan of specimens.

DISCARD





RUFOUS WARBLER.
MARSH WARBLER.
BARRED WARBLER.

RUFOUS WARBLER.

PLATE CXX*.—FIGURE I.

Salicaria galactotes, GOULD. SCHLEGEL. TEMMINCK.

THE nest is placed in a bush, or by the ground. It is built of shoots of trees, feathers and hair.

The eggs are of a pale greenish white colour, spotted, streaked, and speckled over 'invicem' with two shades of darker greenish brown; from three to five in number.

MARSH WARBLER.

PLATE CXX*.—FIGURE II.

Acrocephalus palustris, BECHSTEIN.

THE nest is placed on the ground, among the natural vegetation of the spot; but also, at times, in a low bush. A second nest is built if necessary.

The eggs are of a whitish ground-colour, blotted and spotted with olive-brown and violet-grey.

BARRED WARBLER.

PLATE CXX*.—FIGURE III.

Sylvia nisoria, BECHSTEIN.

THE nest is built in a bush, near the ground, or on a branch of a tree, at no great elevation generally, but sometimes as high up as twenty-five feet.

The eggs, generally five in number, are buff-white marbled with grey.

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BLACKCAP.

CXXI

BLACKCAP.

BLACKCAP WARBLER. MOCK-NIGHTINGALE.

PLATE CXXI.

Sylvia atricapilla,	Pennant. Jenyns.
Motacilla atricapilla,	Montagu. Bewick.
Motacilla mosquita,	Gmelin.
Curruca atricapilla,	Gould. Fleming.

THE nest, built about the end of May or the beginning of June, is commonly placed in a bramble or other bush, sometimes in a honey-suckle, a raspberry, or currant tree, about two or three feet or rather more from the ground; sometimes among nettles. It is made of dry grass and small fibrous roots, with occasionally a little moss and hair—the latter as a lining, and the outer parts cemented together with spider's webs and wool. It is strong and tolerably compact, though slight. Anything like meddling with it, or intruding upon it, is jealously watched, and the smallest disturbance causes the nest to be forsaken. Several in fact are frequently abandoned, either from apprehension or caprice, before they have been finished. Alfred Newton, Esq., of Elveden Hall, near Thetford, mentions in the 'Zoologist,' page 1024, his having known a nest to be found there on the 11th. of March, 1845, which contained an egg at that early date.

The eggs, usually four or five in number, sometimes six, are of a pale greenish or reddish white colour, mottled with light brown and grey, with a few spots and streaks of olive, dusky, and dark brown. Some are mostly pale red or crimson, and marbled with deeper shades of red, or reddish brown; white ones have at times been found. They vary a good deal in size and shape.

Frederick Stafford, Esq., of De Warren House, Northfleet, Kent, has informed me of his having obtained from the county of Norfolk, four eggs of this species of a beautiful salmon-colour, in no way the effect of incubation, as only one egg had been deposited when the nest was first discovered. This pink variety is not very unfrequent. J. A. Drake, Esq. has also forwarded me a good variety.

One is grounded with yellowish-brown, with a few small spots of black.

A second is of a greyish white, nearly hidden with blots of light yellowish-green, and a few dark green spots.

A third is of a greyish pink, with some spots of brownish pink, and some waved streaks and small dashes of the same.

A fourth is of a greyish white, with blots of yellowish brown, and one or two dull waved streaks of a darker shade.

Both birds sit on the eggs, but the female naturally the most. The male frequently sings while so engaged. The female, when sitting, is occasionally fed by her partner. The young are said to leave the nest rather soon, roosting with their parents on the adjoining boughs.

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ORPHEAN WARBLER.

CXXII

ORPHEAN WARBLER.

PLATE CXXII.

Sylvia Orphea,	Temminck.
Sylvia grisea,	Viellot.
Curruca Orphea,	Gould.

A SPECIMEN of this bird was shot on the 6th. of July, 1848, in a small plantation near Wetherby, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and preserved by Mr. Graham, of York, for William Mordaunt Edward Milner, Esq., M.P. for York. It was a female, and appeared to have been sitting the same summer: the male bird was also observed with it for a considerable time previously. An account of this interesting occurrence was published in the 'Zoologist,' page 3107-8-9-10.

The Orphean Warbler builds sometimes in low bushes, often in company with others of the same species, and not uncommonly in holes of rocks and walls, as also in the eaves and roofs of deserted and isolated houses and buildings, and among stones on the ground. It is compiled of small twigs, leaves, and long grass, interwoven with horse hair.

The eggs are four or five in number, nearly white, irregularly marked with yellowish blots and brown spots, chiefly at the larger end.

One is of a greyish colour, spotted with a few green spots mostly at the thicker end.

A second variety is of a greyish white, with a few very small light yellowish green spots all over.

A third is also of a whitish grey, with large blots and spots of green.

The plate is from a drawing sent by W. F. W. Bird, Esq., with his usual kindness, together with two specimens from the collection of Frederick Bond, Esq., to be coloured from for this work.

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GARDEN WARBLER.

CXXIII

GARDEN WARBLER.

GREATER PETTYCHAPS.

PLATE CXXIII.

Sylvia hortensis,	LATHAM. BECHSTEIN.
Curruca hortensis,	SELBY.

THE nest is made of goose-grass, and other grasses, straws, and small roots, mixed sometimes with a small quantity of moss, and lined with a little wool or horse-hair, and fine fibres of plants. It is attached to the branches with spider-cots and the cocoons of chrysalides. It is generally placed between the branches of some low black-thorn, white-thorn, or other bush, not far from the ground, as also at times on the ground among the taller wild plants. It is rather loosely constructed. One is said to have been found in an open field among some tares, and another has been taken in a row of peas in a garden by Mr. Yarrell. Mr. Jesse mentions his having found one three times in succession among some ivy growing against a wall. It is not very carefully concealed.

The eggs are four or five in number, of a dull yellowish grey, or pale purple brown, spotted and blotted with darker markings of the latter colour. James Dalton, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, has

obligingly forwarded me a specimen from the beautiful gardens of that College, where it used to my knowledge to be an annual visitant.

Both male and female are believed to take their turn on the nest. Two broods are commonly reared in the season.

One variety is grounded with grey, marked all over with some blots of yellowish green.

A second is of a greyish yellow, covered with blots of pale green.

A third is grounded with grey, mottled over with yellowish brown.

A fourth is of a bluish grey, elegantly marbled with some waved streaks of a darker shade of the same, and a few light yellowish-brown spots.

A fifth is of a greyish yellow, handsomely marked with rich reddish brown at the thick end, and a few paler marks of the same over the remainder of the surface.

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WHITETHROAT.

CXXIV

WHITETHROAT.

COMMON WHITETHROAT. MUGGY. NETTLE-CREEPER.

PLATE CXXIV.

Sylvia cinerea,	PENNANT. JENYNS.
Motacilla sylvia,	MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Curruca sylvia,	FLEMING.
Curruca cinerea,	GOULD.

THE nest, thin in width and loosely compacted, though still elastic, and not flimsy, is placed near the ground, not more than two or three feet above it, in a low hedge, or sometimes in a bramble, furze, sloe, wild rose, or other bush, as also frequently among nettles or other tall weeds or herbaceous plants on the ground, or beside a bank; Mr. Jesse mentions one which built in a vine close to a window. It is for the most part a 'straw-built shed,' composed chiefly of dried stalks of grasses, though other plants are occasionally used, and lined with finer portions of the same, and a good deal of hair of various kinds, with which it is often, though not always, thickly woven on the inside, giving it accordingly more or less consistency. The same situation is frequently resorted to year after year; a trifling disturbance will cause the owner to desert it before the eggs are laid, but the reverse is the case afterwards; much care is not taken

in its concealment. The young quit the nest early, even before they are fully able to fly, if alarmed for their safety. Two broods, and not uncommonly three, are reared in the season; in the south of Scotland, however, the first nest is seldom completed before the end of May. The bird has been known to build close to a public road, and in the immediate vicinity also of an occupied dwelling-house.

The eggs, four or five in number, are of a greenish-white ground colour, with spots and speckles of greenish grey and brownish grey. Some are more of a stone-coloured ground.

One variety is of a lightish green, with a few spots of dark green.

A second is mottled, of a dull yellowish green, with a few distinct green spots.

A third is chiefly composed of marbled yellowish green, with a band of green blots at the thicker end, and a few blotted dots of the same.

A fourth is of a light mottled yellowish-white, with a few spots of dull green, nearly all about the base.

A fifth is of a greyish green, with some large blots of yellowish green, and a few small ones chiefly at the larger end.

W. Bridger, Esq., has forwarded me a specimen of the nest for the use of this work; and J. G. Bonney, Esq., of Rugeley, Staffordshire, a variety of the egg.

CORNELL

LESSER WHITETHROAT.

CXXV

LESSER WHITETHROAT.

PLATE CXXV.

Sylvia sylviella,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Sylvia dumetorum,	LATHAM.
Sylvia curruca,	TEMMINCK.
Motacilla curruca,	LINNÆUS.
Motacilla sylviella.	BEWICK.
Motacilla dumetorum,	GMELIN.
Curruca sylviella,	FLEMING.
Curruca garrula,	GOULD.

THE nest, which is begun about three weeks after the arrival of the birds, is of a slight construction, and is made of dry grass and a little wool, or moss, lined, but rarely, with small fibres, roots and hairs; it is rather loosely interwoven, and is bound together with spiders' webs and such like materials. It is sometimes placed among the herbage on a bank, as well as in the lower part of a hedge, or in some low shrub—a nut tree, gooseberry bush, black-thorn, broom, woodbine, and among briers and brambles, generally at a height, in the latter, of about four or five feet from the ground, but sometimes as much as six, seven, eight, or even ten.

The eggs, exceedingly pretty, are of a white or greenish white colour, spotted most numerously at the larger end, and sometimes in the way of a zone with

small dots and patches of brown, olive-brown, and light grey. James Dalton, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, has forwarded me a specimen for the use of this work.

Incubation lasts from twelve to fourteen days, commencing about the 20th. of May. Two, and sometimes even possibly three, broods are reared in the season.

The young birds in their nestling plumage nearly resemble the old ones, but the colour of the head and the back are more uniform.

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WOOD WARBLER.

CXXVI

WOOD WARBLER.

YELLOW WARBLER. WOOD WREN. GREEN WREN.
LARGER WILLOW WREN. YELLOW WILLOW WREN.

PLATE CXXVI.

Sylvia sylvicola,	PENNANT.
Motacilla trochilus,	BEWICK.
Sylvia sibilatrix,	SELBY.
Curruca sibilatrix,	FLEMING.
Regulus non-cristatus major,	WILLUGHBY.

THE nest, which is domed, and of an oval shape, is almost always placed on the ground, among herbage in woods, the entrance being through a small hole in the side. It is made of grasses, leaves, and moss, cleverly, but not thickly, interwoven, lined with the finer parts of the first and hair. It is well concealed, and is usually to be found on the side of some slope, where the sun's rays gaining transitory admittance through the boughs above encourage the vegetation, and dispel the dank and humid atmosphere which otherwise would prevail in such a place. Mr. Sweet says that he has often found the nest on the stump of a tree.

The eggs, six, or more commonly seven in number, are of a white ground colour, thickly spotted and speckled all over with dark purple, red, and grey,

forming a mass at the larger end. Some are, however, much less marked than others.

One is of a white ground with blackish-brown spots, and a few blots irregularly over.

Another is of the same ground with some distinct dark reddish-brown spots at the thicker end, and smaller spots of the same all over.

A third is of a dull olive-brown ground, thickly mottled with a darker shade of the same.

A fourth is of a bluish white ground, handsomely spotted with brown and blackish spots, principally towards the base.

DISCARD

WILLOW WARBLER.

WILLOW WARBLER.

YELLOW WARBLER. WILLOW WREN. HUCK-MUCK.

PLATE CXXVII.

Sylvia trochilus,	PENNANT. SELBY. JENYNS.
Motacilla trochilus,	MONTAGU. LINNÆUS.
Motacilla acredula,	LINNÆUS.
Regulus trochilus,	FLEMING.

THE nest, which is very large for the size of the bird, of an oval but rather flat shape, though it varies in form, probably according to the situation in which it is placed, is built of moss, leaves, or fern and grass, a hollow being left in the side for the ingress and egress of the bird. It is lined with feathers, and with hair, the former being the innermost, and is pretty firmly compacted. It is placed on the ground, generally in woods, or among the long grass, brushwood, or weeds on the bank of some wooded hedge by the outside of a wood, or the edge of a pathway or open place in such. One has been met with in the ivy on a wall, and another in a field, several yards from the fence. James Croome, Esq. writes me word also of one placed two yards from a fence, in long grass, which having been destroyed, a second was built four yards from the hedge; and a third, the second having been also acci-

dentally destroyed, about the same distance from it. The nest is rather carefully concealed.

The eggs, of a rotund form, but varying much in size and marks, are from four to six or seven in number, and mostly light pinkish white, with numerous small specks of pale rusty red; some are less thoroughly spotted, and some most marked at the larger end, while others are only sparingly dotted; they are a little polished: pure white ones have been met with. The female bird sits very close upon them, and the male feeds her on the nest, she chattering to him the while, and he to her, and sometimes taking her place in the course of the day, while she searches for food.

The young are hatched the end of May or beginning of June, and are fledged about the middle or end of that month, or the beginning of July. A second brood, if reared, is abroad by the beginning of August.

One is of a dull greyish white ground with some small spots of yellowish brown at the thick end, and smaller spots of the same throughout.

Another variety is of a greyish white colour tinged with pinkish yellow, with a band of light reddish-brown spots near the larger end, with smaller and paler spots all over.

J. R. De C. Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has favoured me with the loan of the nest and egg of this bird.

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MELODIOUS WILLOW WARBLER.

CXXVIII

MELODIOUS WILLOW WARBLER.

MELODIOUS WILLOW WREN.

PLATE CXXVIII.

Sylvia hippolais, TEMMINCK.

MR. Gould says that this species builds on trees, as well as at times in shrubs in gardens.

The eggs are five in number, of a reddish white or dull brown pink colour, blotted and speckled with spots and dots of darker red or blackish purple.

The first variety given by Thieneman is of a pale reddish yellow-brown ground, with a few small black spots and dots all over.

Another is of a very pale dull grey ground, tinged with pink, with numerous small light brown spots.

A third is of a light pinkish grey ground, with some dull dusky grey and light bluish spots, and a few brown ones, chiefly at the base.

A fourth variety is of a dull pink colour, with two or three large blackish spots, and a few smaller ones throughout.

J. R. Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has kindly forwarded two specimens for the use of this work.

CHIFF CHAFF.

LESSER PETTYCHAPS. LEAST WILLOW WREN.

PLATE CXXIX.

Sylvia rufa,	TEMMINCK.
Motacilla hippolais,	MONTAGU.
Sylvia hippolais,	LATHAM. JENYNS. SELBY.

THE nest, which is arched over, is skilfully constructed of various indiscriminate materials, according to the situation it is placed in, fern, moss, leaves, grasses, the bark of the birch tree, the shells of chrysalides, wool, and the down of flowers, with sometimes feathers and a few hairs for lining for the whole of the interior; it is arched over more than half-way, the other portion of the upper half being left open by the side; if the roofing be removed, even three or four times, the patient little architect will renew it. It is placed on the ground, generally, but not always, in the immediate neighbourhood of trees, or on a hedge bank, or near a brook, or on the moss-clad stump of a tree, beneath the shelter of the trailing boughs of some bramble, furze, or other bush, or clod of earth. Mr. Henry Doubleday has found one at a height of two feet from the ground, in some fern; and Mr. Hewitson mentions another, which was built in some ivy against a garden wall, at a like elevation. Occasionally the nest is placed in a row of

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CHIFF CHAFF.

CXXIX

peas, or a bed of ground-growing wild plants. I have seen one on the top of a wall in Londesborough Park, at a height of six feet from the ground; and on being disturbed, the bird built a little farther on in some ivy against the side of the wall, about four feet up it. The same has been known before.

The eggs, usually seven in number, are more than ordinarily rounded at the larger end, and pointed at the smaller. They are hatched in thirteen days: they do not vary much, and are of a white ground colour, with very small dots and spots of blackish red or purple brown, chiefly at the thicker end, which they sometimes surround in the way of a zone or belt. Mr. Neville Wood saw a nest which contained five eggs of the usual colour, and the sixth pure white. The shell is very thin, and but little polished. The eggs are laid towards the middle or end of May, and the young birds are fledged about the middle of June: they quit the nest early.

Incubation lasts thirteen days, and the male occasionally relieves the female at her post. Two broods are sometimes reared in the season.

DARTFORD WARBLER.

FURZE WREN.

PLATE CXXX.

Sylvia provincialis,	SCHLEGEL.
Sylvia Dartfordiensis,	LATHAM.
Motacilla provincialis,	GMELIN.
Melizophilus provincialis,	SELBY.

THE nest, which is slight in its make, is placed in a furze bush, to the stems of which it is attached, at a height of about two feet from the ground. It is built of dry stalks and grass, mixed with bits of the gorse; the materials, though in reality firmly compacted, are apparently but loosely put together, and have a slight interweaving of wool.

Two broods appear to be reared in the year, for Montagu found the nest and eggs after the middle of July, and saw another pair of birds at the same time which appeared to have a nest near, the earlier brood being hatched early in May.

The eggs are of a whitish-grey ground colour, slightly tinged with green, speckled all over with olive-brown and ash-colour; near the larger end the markings are more run together, and form a sort of zone.

One variety is pale yellowish grey, with some

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DARTFORD WARBLER.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

small streaks and a few dull dusky greenish blots.

A second is of a greyish white, mottled with yellowish, and handsomely marked with a band of dark green at the thick end.

WREN.

COMMON WREN. KITTY WREN. JIMPO.

PLATE CXXXI.

Sylvia troglodytes,	PENNANT.
Motacilla troglodytes,	MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Troglodytes vulgaris,	TEMMINCK.
Troglodytes Europœus,	CUVIER.

THE nest, very large in size in proportion to the bird, and ordinarily of a spherical shape, domed over, but flattened on the side next the substance against which it is placed, varies much both in form and substance according to the nature of the locality which furnishes the materials and a 'locus standi' for it. It is commenced early in the spring, even so soon as the end of the month of March, the birds pairing in February. One found by my second son, Reginald Frank Morris, this autumn, in the beautiful grounds of Mulgrave Castle, near Whitby, the seat of Lord Normanby, was placed against the trunk of a large tree, about eight or ten feet from the ground, and was chiefly composed externally of dry leaves. Others are variously made of fern and moss, grass, small roots, twigs, and hay, closely resembling in most cases the immediate situation in which they are placed; some are lined with hair or feathers, and others not. The nest is firmly

WREN.

CXXXI

CORNELL
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put together, especially about and below the orifice, which is strengthened with small twigs or moss, and is in the upper half and nearly closed by the feathers inside. It is in thickness about one inch to two inches, and about three inches wide within by about four in depth, and outside about five wide by six deep. At times they are found on the ground and also in banks, as well as against trees, even so high up as twenty feet, also under the eaves of the thatch of a building, in holes in walls, the sides of stacks, among piles of wood or faggots, or the bare roots of trees, and under the projection at the top of the bank of a river; one has been known to be placed in an old bonnet fixed up among some peas to frighten the birds, and one close to a constant thoroughfare. Mr. Hewitson mentions one built against a clover stack, and formed entirely of clover, and so becoming part of the stack itself.

Other situations for nests are the tops of honeysuckle and raspberry bushes, in the latter case the nest being made of the leaves of the tree; in fir trees, trellis-work, granaries, the branches of wall-fruit trees, and lofts, use being made occasionally of the holes previously tenanted by Sparrows and Starlings. One has been known built withinside that of a Swallow, and another in the old nest of a Thrush: one, again, in the newly-finished nest of a Martin, another on a branch of a yew tree among the foliage, and another in one of the hatches in the river at Winchester. Mr. Jesse relates a curious anecdote of a Wren's nest, the owner of which being disturbed by some children watching it, blocked up the original entrance, and opened out a new one on the other side. In the garden of Nunburnholme Rectory one was built, in 1854, in the middle

of a low quickset hedge, near the top, close to the walk. It was composed nearly entirely of dry leaves.

The male feeds the female while sitting. Two broods are produced in the season. The least disturbance will cause the nest to be forsaken and a new one built, and this again and again, if so required, until the eggs are laid; even then, if they or the young be once handled, this species will sometimes desert them. This, or some interruption of the ordinary course of laying, may be the cause of tenantless nests of the Wren being so frequently found; it is, however, said that a forsaken nest will sometimes be again returned to. Thus several nests of the same year are often found near together, the work of one and the same pair of birds; and other nests, in the making of which both birds assist, are not very unfrequently put together in the autumn, and in these the birds shelter themselves in the winter, possibly as being of the newest, and therefore the best, construction, and made too late in the year for a further brood: these nests seldom, if ever, contain any feathers. The young are said to return to lodge in the nest for some time after being fledged.

The eggs are usually from seven to eight in number, but generally not more than eight, though as many as a dozen, or even fourteen, have been found, of a pale reddish white colour, the former tint being transient; some are dusky white. This ground colour is sprinkled all over with small spots of dark crimson red, and these most numerous at the obtuse end; some are quite white: the shell is very thin and polished.

DISCARD

GOLDCREST.

GOLDCREST.

GOLDEN-CRESTED KINGLET. GOLDEN-CRESTED WREN. GOLDEN-CROWNED WREN.

PLATE CXXXII.

Regulus cristatus,	FLEMING. RAY.
Regulus auricapillus,	SELBY. JENYNS.
Regulus vulgaris,	GOULD.
Motacilla regulus,	MONTAGU.
Sylvia regulus,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THESE birds begin to pair even by the end of February, and Mr. Selby has known the young birds fully fledged so early as the third week in April, the nest being built in March. I believe they sometimes build a second time. The nest is placed underneath and generally near the end of the branch of a fir, or occasionally on an oak, cypress, holly, yew, cedar, or other tree, as also not very unfrequently in a laurustinus or other bush, and, though very rarely, in a hedge, supported by some of the smaller offshoots, and further attached to these by the moss and lichens of which it is composed being interwoven with them, mixed sometimes with willow down, cocoons, spiders' webs, wool, grasses, and a few hairs. It measures about three inches and a half in diameter inside, and is deep and of a spherical shape, the orifice being

almost always in the upper part; some however are not perfectly round. It closely assimilates in colour to the branch beneath which it is fixed. In a fir it is mostly composed of moss, and, in a thorn tree, of lichens. It is sometimes placed near the top of the tree, and in other instances only two or three feet from the ground: a very high gale has sometimes dislodged the eggs—'When the wind blows the cradle will rock.' These birds have been known to steal the materials from the nests of Chaffinches to make their own; one was noticed to do so most slily, watching its opportunity, and approaching from the opposite direction; but on the Chaffinch detecting and chasing it, it did not repeat the theft. The nest is frequently lined with feathers, and is altogether a singularly elegant piece of architecture. The feathers are so placed as to project inward; two nests have been found on one branch. Mr. Hewitson says 'It is sometimes placed upon the upper surface of the branch; and I have also seen it, but rarely, placed against the trunk of the tree upon the base of a diverging branch, and at an elevation of from twelve to twenty feet above the ground.' He also mentions in the 'Zoologist,' page 825, his having once met with the nest in a low juniper bush, very little more than a foot from the ground. James Croome, Esq. writes me word of one he found in the stump of a thorn bush about four feet from the ground, and another in a bush a few feet from the hedge at a height of about six feet. Deserted nests of this species are frequently to be met with, but the reason is not known.

The eggs are four, five, six, or seven, to eight, or even ten or eleven in number; they are of a very pale reddish or brownish white, the larger end being

much the darkest coloured, light reddish brown; some have been known pure white, sparingly spotted with reddish brown here and there. They are smaller than those of any other British bird, and are sometimes almost of a globular shape. The young are fed by both the parents. It is thought that two broods are reared in the year, and that the second is less numerous than the first. Eggs, fresh laid, have been met with in May and June, while young birds have been known fully fledged by the third week in April. The same nest has also been known to have been used twice in the same season, two broods being hatched and reared; but whether by the same parents or not, of course could not be told. The eggs in one nest were observed placed in two rows, with the small ends touching each other.

One variety is of a greyish white, with some small spots of pinkish yellow all over, some of them arranged as a band.

Another is of a pale dull yellowish white, with yellowish-brown spots thickly run together at the base: it is of a rotund form.

A third is greyish, and of an oval shape, with a bar of minute spots of the same over the base.

W. Bridger, Esq. has forwarded me a nest, and a lady a drawing of one. Mrs. Murchison, of the Priory, Bicester, has also obliged me with a beautiful specimen of the nest and the egg.

FIRECREST.

FIRE-CRESTED KINGLET. FIRE-CROWNED KINGLET.
FIRE-CRESTED WREN.

PLATE CXXXIII.—FIGURES I, II.

Regulus ignicapillus,	JENYNS. MACGILLIVRAY.
Sylvia ignicapilla,	TEMMINCK.

THE nest is built of moss, wool, and a few grasses, lined with fur and feathers. It is suspended from the branch of a fir or other tree.

The eggs are said to be from five or six to eight or ten in number, and of a pale reddish yellow tint, minutely speckled with yellowish grey about the larger end, but they vary in size and colour.

One variety is of a pale dull yellowish grey, with an elegant band of small spots of a darker colour near the thick end, and other minute ones over the remainder of the surface.

Another is with a ground of yellowish grey tinged with red, with a band of light clear red spots, nearly at the centre, and many minute dots and spots, of the same all over.

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FIRECREST.
YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER.

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YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER.

DALMATIAN REGULUS.

PLATE CXXXIII.—FIGURE III.

Phylloscopus superciliosus,	GMELIN.
Regulus modestus,	GOULD.

THE nest is of slighter construction than that of the Goldcrest, made of grass and moss, sparingly lined with finer grass, hairs, or feathers, and a few spiders' egg-bags on the outside. It is placed on the ground, either open, or by preference near the edge of a wood, or at the root of some small bush or tree.

The egg is pure white? or pale greenish white, mottled over with reddish brown, and very much so round and about the larger end, with sometimes a few spots of purple grey; some are much marked, and others only minutely spotted. Mr. Scott most kindly gave me a specimen for my collection.

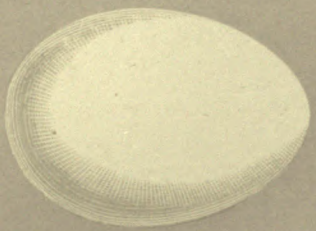
WOOD PIGEON.

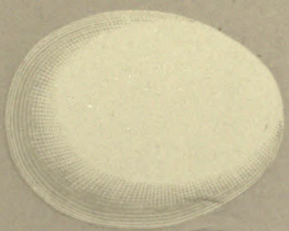
RING DOVE. CUSHAT. QUEEST.

PLATE CXXXIV.—FIGURE I.

Columba palumbus, PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest, wide and shallow, placed usually at a height of from sixteen to twenty feet from the ground, is little more than a rude platform of a few crossed sticks and twigs, the largest as the foundation, so thinly laid together that the eggs or young may sometimes be discovered from below. It is often built in woods and plantations, but not unfrequently also in single trees, even those that are close to houses, roads, and lanes, the oak and the beech, the fir or any other suitable one, or even in ivy against a wall, rock, or tree, or in a thick bush or shrub in a garden, or an isolated thorn, even in the thick part, so that in flying out in a hurry, if alarmed, many of the loosely-attached feathers are pulled out. One pair built in a spruce fir not ten yards from a garden gate, where they were constantly liable to disturbance by the ringing of the bell, and the passing in and out of the members of the family. Another pair dwelt two years in succession close to a window by a frequented walk, and this though a cat destroyed the young.





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WOOD PIGEON.
STOCK DOVE.

CXXXIV

The eggs, which are delicious eating, are two in number, pure white, and of a rounded oval form; two and sometimes three broods are produced in the season, but the third may possibly be only the consequence of a previous one having been destroyed or prevented: the eggs are hatched in sixteen or seventeen days. James Croome, Esq. informs me that he once found three eggs in a nest. Since the above was in type, my second son, Reginald Frank Morris, found three also in one nest in a wood near Londesborough, in the East-Riding. The young are fed from the bills of the parent birds with the food previously swallowed, reduced to a sort of milk. The male and female both take their turns in hatching the eggs and in feeding the young, the former sitting from six to eight hours—from nine or ten in the morning to about three or four in the afternoon.

The first brood are abroad by the beginning of May; the second in the end of July. Mr. Macgillivray has known the young unfledged in October, and a pair with down tips to the feathers on the 26th. of that month; Mr. Hewitson, too, so late as the middle of September; and R. A. Julian, Esq., Jun., on the 15th. of that month, 1851, at Minchenay, near Holbeton, Devon; so also E. C. Nunn, Esq., at Trevan Wood, near Diss, Norfolk, on the 25th. of the same month in the same year.

STOCK DOVE

PLATE CXXXIV.—FIGURE II.

Columba œnas, PENNANT. SELBY.

NIDIFICATION begins about the end of March, or the beginning of April.

The nest, which is flat and shallow—a mere layer of a few sticks slightly put together, is often placed on the ground in an old deserted rabbit burrow, where any exist, and in this case on the bare sand or earth, a few sticks being occasionally used; and in such places under furze and other bushes, where the surface is hollowed; also, ordinarily, in any suitable holes in trees, from four or five feet to ten times that height from the ground. The same hole is sometimes resorted to again, but not the same year, and if disturbed by other would-be tenants, they stoutly defend their own: a second brood is reared in the year. Incubation lasts about seventeen days, and in about a month the young are able to fly. The parents are very careful of the eggs, and will even sit on them till taken off with the hand. James Dalton, Esq., of Worcester College, Oxford, has found the nest of the Stock Dove in a hollow of a decayed elm tree, something more than a foot in depth, at Hillesden, near Buckingham; the nest was made of hay or grass. Leaves are on occasion used likewise for the purpose.

A pair built, in May, 1882, in the tower of Nunburnholme Church, but after a short time forsook it and left the place. So one or two did before in the tower of the Church of Ebberston, in the North Riding, as the Rev. Julian G. Tuck has sent me word.

The eggs, white, are smaller than those of the Queest, and somewhat pointed at the smaller end, but rounded on the whole, and of an oval shape. They have been known, fresh laid, even so late as the 2nd. of October, (1875).

ROCK DOVE

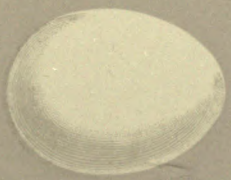
ROCKIER.

PLATE CXXXV.—FIGURE I.

Columba livia, SELBY. JENYNS. GOULD.

THESE birds build in companies, many often in the same cavern. The nest is composed of sticks and dry stalks, with blades of grass and other plants, laid together without much care. The bed is fresh made without much trouble for a new brood as soon as the former has been sent at large. The first eggs are laid about or towards the middle of April, and the latest the latter end of August; the young are seen about the end of September.

The eggs are white, and two in number; while the hen is sitting, the cock bird feeds her, and even at other times she will often take a morsel from his bill: at night he remains close to the nest. The young birds are fledged in about three weeks, and after a few days education by their parents, go their ways to provide for themselves.



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ROCK DOVE.
TURTLE DOVE.

NO LONGER
PROPERTY OF

TURTLE DOVE.

PLATE CXXXV.—FIGURE II.

Columba Turtur,	LINNÆUS. LATHAM.
Turtur auritus,	RAY.

THE nest, built in woods and hedges, is frail and carelessly constructed of a few twigs and sticks, and is placed in trees at no great height from the ground—some ten or twenty feet—but well hidden among the foliage. It is, however, itself so slight, that the eggs may be seen through it.

The eggs are two in number, and glossy white, of a narrow oval and rather pointed form. They are laid about the middle of May, and are hatched in sixteen or seventeen days. The female sits on the young, if the weather be cold, both night and day. Two and sometimes three broods are produced in the year. The young soon learn to shift for themselves.

PASSENGER PIGEON.

PLATE CXXXVI.

Columba migratoria, FLEMING. YARRELL.
Ectopistes migratorius, SELBY.

IT would appear that the nest, which is placed in trees, and is only a layer of a few sticks, is put together in a single day, and that the young are hatched in sixteen days;—both male and female assisting in making the nest, the former bringing the materials, and the latter arranging them, and also in the work of incubation.

The egg, for only one is laid, is pure white.

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PASSENGER PIGEON.

CXXXVI

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PHEASANT.

PHEASANT.

COMMON PHEASANT. RING-NECKED PHEASANT.

PLATE CXXXVII.

Phasianus Colchicus, LINNÆUS. LATHAM.

THE nest, a very slight fabrication of a few leaves, is made upon the ground, sometimes in the open fields, but more commonly in woods and plantations, among underwood, under fallen or felled boughs and branches of trees, in long grass, and in hedgerows: a few feathers sometimes become detached from the bird, and are found among the eggs. She has been known to remove them, when disturbed, and to form a new nest.

The eggs are begun to be laid in April and May, one after another, for four, five, or six weeks, and incubation lasts from twenty-four to twenty-six days. They are from six to ten and even fourteen in number, smooth, and of a light olive brown colour, minutely dotted all over. Some are greyish white tinged with green. The hen sits for four and twenty hours on the brood after they are hatched, which takes place in June or July, and they keep with her till they begin to moult to the full plumage. They soon learn to run about with her, and when half grown begin to roost

on the same tree. It would appear that two hens will sometimes lay in one and the same nest, and also that that of the Partridge will occasionally be made use of, even if it already contain eggs, the Pheasant expelling their proper owner, and hatching them with her own, and bringing up the young. The eggs are subject to considerable malformation. Mr. Hewitson mentions one sent to him by the Hon. Mr. Liddell, which was of a cylindrical shape.

[illegible]

CAPERCAILLIE.

CXXXVIII

CAPERCAILLIE.

WOOD GROUSE.

PLATE CXXXVIII.

Tetrao urogallus,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Urogallus major,	BRISSON.

ABOUT the beginning of May nidification commences, and the nest, composed of grasses and leaves, is made upon the ground, in long grass or heath, under the shelter of a tree, or bramble, or other bush. One has been known at a good height from the ground, in a pine tree, in an old nest of a Falcon.

The eggs are from half-a-dozen to a dozen in number, of a pale reddish-yellow brown, spotted all over with two shades of orange brown. Incubation is said to last for a month, the hen alone sitting, the males keeping in the neighbourhood. If danger approaches, she runs off a little way, but returns again as soon as she can with safety. The young leave the nest soon after they are hatched, and keep with the mother bird till towards the approach of winter; the cocks leaving her before the hens.

One variety is of a dull yellowish ground colour, spotted irregularly over with larger and smaller streaks and spots of dark reddish brown.

Another is of a dull yellowish ground colour, spotted all over with small spots of a darker colour, and some large blots of a dark brown throughout.

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BLACK GROUSE.

CXXXIX

BLACK GROUSE.

BLACK GAME. BLACK COCK.

PLATE CXXXIX.

Tetrao tetrix,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Urogallus minor,	RAY. WILLUGHBY.

THE nest is placed not far from water, or in a marshy spot, among heath, or in newly-made plantations, and sometimes in hedgerows, generally under the shelter of some low bush, or among high grass in some hollow, and is composed inartificially, but rather neatly, of grass and a few twigs laid together.

In the 'British Game Birds and Wildfowl,' by my brother, Beverley R. Morris, Esq., he says, speaking of the time after the hen birds have commenced sitting, 'They are deserted by the cock birds, who again assemble in small parties, and seek the secluded and quiet thickets, among which they chiefly remain till they have completed their moult. They are, during this seclusion, particularly timid and shy. The female has thus the whole charge of hatching and bringing up the young birds.....The packs of male birds are sometimes very numerous, often amounting to from fifty to seventy birds. The females also in autumn are occasionally found in packs, but in much smaller numbers, generally under twenty.'.

The eggs are from five to eight or ten in number, of a pale yellowish red or yellowish white colour, irregularly spotted and dotted with reddish brown. They are laid in May.

One is of a fine yellowish brown, spotted throughout with larger and smaller blots and streaks of reddish brown.

A second is of a pale yellowish-brown colour, with a few streaks of reddish brown, principally towards the thinner end, and a few minute spots of the same.

I have been obliged by Mr. D. Brown, of Trinity College, Glenalmond, Perth, with two fine specimens of the eggs of this bird.

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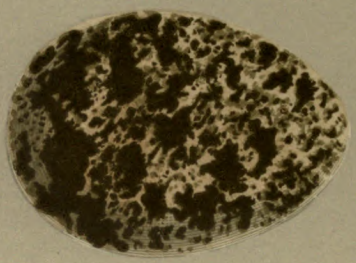

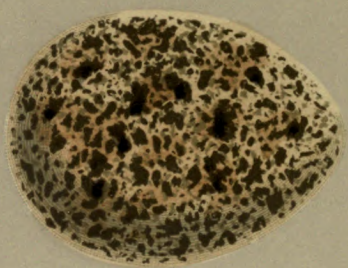

RED GROUSE.

CXL

RED GROUSE.

GOR-COCK. MOOR-COCK. MOOR-FOWL. MUIR-FOWL.

PLATE CXL.

Lagopus Scoticus, VIELLOT.
Tetrao Scoticus, LATHAM.

THE Moor-cock pairs early in the spring, commonly in January, but sometimes even earlier. A brood of young Grouse, able to fly a little, was discovered on the 5th. of March, 1794, near Pendle Hill, in Yorkshire, by the gamekeeper of Mr. Lister, afterwards Lord Ribblesdale; and a nest with fifteen eggs was found on the 25th. of March, 1835, on Shap Fell, Westmoreland. The female usually begins to lay in March or April; she sits very close, and Mr. Salmon says that one allowed him to take her off her eggs.

The nest is made of twigs of heather and grass, with occasionally a few of the bird's own feathers, and is placed among heath in some slight hollow.

The eggs are usually six or seven, but sometimes from eight to twelve, or even more, in number, of different shades of ground colour—reddish white, brownish yellow, yellowish grey, or yellowish white, thickly clouded, blotted, and dotted with blackish and brown: they are nearly of a regular oval form.

While the young are hatching, the hen utters an occasional chuckle. The Heath Poults leave the nest shortly after they are hatched, and are soon able to fly; they keep together till the end of autumn, unless dispersed by shooters: they are attended by both the parents. At the beginning of the season they lie close, but gradually become more wild as they are disturbed.

Mr. D. Brown, of Trinity College, Glenalmond, Perth, has also favoured me with two fine specimens of the eggs of this species.

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PTARMIGAN.

CXLI

PTARMIGAN.

PLATE CXLI.

Lagopus vulgaris,	FLEMING.
Lagopus mutus,	SELBY GOULD.
Tetrao lagopus,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE Ptarmigan also pairs early in the spring, and the eggs are begun to be laid in June, and to be sat upon by the beginning of July, incubation lasting three weeks. The hen alone brings up the brood, and has been known to do so even when the male had been taken; and so also, if one of the young had been picked up, to go close to the person taking it, as if to demand it back again; she gathers them under her wings in cold and stormy weather.

The nest, if any be formed, for sometimes the bare earth is laid upon, is composed of a small portion of heather or grass, placed in some slight hollow under a rock, stone, or plant, and is very difficult to be detected, 'for,' says Sir William Jardine, 'the female, on perceiving a person approach, generally leaves it, and is only discovered by her motion over the rocks, or her low clucking cry.' The male on the first sign of danger has flown off, and she thus follows him, the young dispersing in all directions, hiding themselves and laying still under any stones, tufts, or bushes.

Meyer says, 'It is reported that the male Ptarmigan behaves very remarkably during the time when the female sits on her eggs, and that under these circumstances he will sit immoveable in one spot for hours together, even on the approach of danger; and when stationed thus near the nest he has been known to remain there, looking around on the landscape quite unmoved. As soon as the young are hatched, both parents become alert and busy, and towards autumn more careful, and finally very shy in the winter. If the weather is fine and sunny in winter, they are all again slow to move.' But the male, it would appear, leaves the education of the young to the hen bird, re-joining them all again later in the season, and then several families pack together.

The eggs, from seven or eight to twelve in number, of a regular oval form, are of a white, yellowish white, greenish white, or reddish colour, blotted and spotted with brown and brownish black.

The ground part of one is pale yellowish white, covered all over with small brown spots and large dark brown blots, chiefly about the middle and towards the smaller end.

A second is of a dull whitish colour, spotted with very small dark brown spots, and marbled over with larger ones.

The ground of a third is chiefly composed of minute yellowish orange spots, with a few large blots of dark brown upon it, and several smaller ones.

A fourth is of a very dark grey, marbled with dark reddish brown all over.

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SAND GROUSE.

CXLI*

SAND GROUSE.

PLATE CXLI*.

Syrrhaptes paradoxus, PALLAS.

THE egg is of a light yellowish-brown colour, irregularly mottled over with darker blots of the latter.

PARTRIDGE.

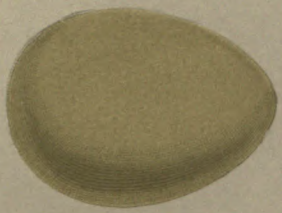
COMMON PARTRIDGE.

PLATE CXLII.—FIGURE I.

Perdix cinerea,	LATHAM. JENYNS.
Tetrao perdix,	LINNÆUS.

THESE birds begin to pair very early, even so soon as the 1st. of February, and usually between that date and the 14th.: they are then found in ploughed and clover fields. At these times there are often fierce combats between the male birds. Some few never pair at all, perhaps for want of mates. The young of more than one nest sometimes join together in coveys. It is said that they remain as long as three weeks in the neighbourhood where they think of making their nest, apprehensive of choosing a dangerous site, and if the one first selected appears to be such, they fix themselves somewhere else.

The nest is only a few straws placed in a mere hollow scratched in the earth, under the shelter perhaps of some tuft, generally in open grass and other fields, among peas, corn, weeds, or herbage, at the foot of a tree or bush, or by a post, but at times in a small plantation, among shrubs, under a hedgerow, even by the roadside, and on the moors in the vicinity of cul-



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PARTRIDGE.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.

CXLII

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tivated land; sometimes in holes of decayed trees, as much as three or four feet from the ground, and even on the top of hay-stacks: I have been told of a nest placed in this situation, the brood hatched, and safely reared. Another I have heard of under the post of a hand-gate, which was turned whenever passengers went backwards and forwards through it. A brace of Partridges have been known, their own nest having been destroyed, to take up with the nest and eggs of a pair of Pheasants, the hen of which had been killed, on the estate of Colonel Burgoyne, in Essex. The hen bird alone sits, the male keeping watch, and when the young are hatched he joins the covey, and protects and feeds them with the dam.

The eggs, which are of a pale greenish brown colour, are laid towards the end of May or the beginning of June, and are usually ten or twelve in number, but sometimes as many as fifteen, eighteen, or even twenty. The 'Norfolk News' mentions a nest hatched at Ditchingham between the 13th. and 18th. of April, 1851. Twenty-two eggs are recorded to have been found in one nest, and thirty-one in another, two hen birds having occupied the same one, and in the former instance the cock bird gathered half of the united family under his wings, the pair sitting side by side, but looking different ways. In two other instances thirty-three eggs are recorded as having been found in one nest, but there is little doubt that they were contributed by more than one bird. In one of these twenty-three young were hatched and went off, and four of the other eggs had live birds in them. The young leave the nest almost as soon as they are hatched. Incubation lasts about twenty-one days, beginning usually in June, about the 20th. as has been

stated, but no doubt generally earlier, especially in the south, though often later. In 1874, in February, in Scotland. 'A Partridge's nest was found at Thistlewood, Cumberland, the other day, containing seventeen Partridge's eggs and six common hen's eggs. Strange to say, a Partridge and a hen were found sitting together upon the nest.'—Yorkshire Gazette, June, 1865.

'It is a curious fact,' says Mr. Jesse, 'that when young Partridges are hatched and have left the nest, the two portions of each shell will be found placed the one within the other. I believe that this is invariably the case. This is doubtless done by the chicks themselves in their last successful effort to escape from prison.' Only one brood is reared in the year, unless indeed the first nest be destroyed, and so a third, if the second happen to be, but in these cases the eggs are fewer, and the young are said to be less strong.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.

GUERNSEY PARTRIDGE. FRENCH PARTRIDGE.

PLATE CXLII.—FIGURE II.

Perdix rufa,	MONTAGU. FLEMING.
Tetrao rufus,	BEWICK.

THE nest is made of grass and a few feathers of the bird itself, and is placed among corn, grass, or clover, or near a bush.

Mr. Jesse says that a Clergyman in the county of Norfolk found the nest in the thatch of a hay-rick, and informed him that such is no unfrequent occurrence. Other similar instances are mentioned.

The eggs are usually from ten to twelve in number: as many as eighteen have been sometimes found. They are of a reddish yellow-white colour, spotted and speckled with reddish brown. The young leave the nest soon after being hatched. The male takes no part in the incubation of the eggs, and leaves the care of the brood to their mother till they are half grown, when he returns to them, and continues with them till the following spring.

BARBARY PARTRIDGE.

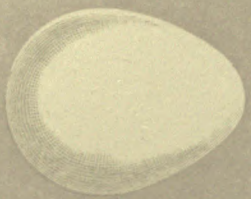
PLATE CXLIII.—FIGURE II.

Perdix petrosa, LATHAM.

THESE birds build in barren places and among desert mountains, among low bushes on the ground.

The eggs are as many as fifteen, of a dull yellowish colour, thickly dotted with greenish-olive spots.

The figure on the plate is from a drawing of an egg in Dr. Pitman's collection.



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VIRGINIAN PARTRIDGE.
BARBARY PARTRIDGE.

CXLIII

Cornell
University

VIRGINIAN PARTRIDGE.

PLATE CXLIII.—FIGURE I.

Perdix Virginiana, LATHAM. JENYNS.

NIDIFICATION begins early in May.

The nest, placed under or in some thick tuft of grass that shelters and conceals it, is described as well covered with a hood, an opening being left at one side for entrance, and is composed of leaves and fine dry grass, both birds assisting in its fabrication.

The eggs, from ten or twelve to fifteen or even twenty-four in number, this latter quantity the joint produce in all probability of two birds laying in the same nest, are pure white, without any spots, and broad at one end, but pointed at the other.

The hen bird performs the task of incubation for four weeks, and the whole family keep together till the following spring. The young leave the nest at once on being hatched, and are conducted forth by the female in search of food, and from time to time are sheltered under her wings, collected together by a twittering cry. Should danger appear to threaten, she displays extreme anxiety, boldly attacking an intruder, or using every artifice and stratagem to draw him away, feigning lameness, 'throwing herself in the path, fluttering along, and beating the ground with her

wings, as if sorely wounded, uttering at the same time certain peculiar notes of alarm well understood by the young, which dive separately among the grass, and secrete themselves till the danger is over; and the parent, having decoyed the pursuer to a safe distance, returns, by a circuitous route, to collect and lead them off.' She shews the greatest assiduity and the most sedulous and unremitting attention to their further care. Wilson mentions a curious anecdote of some young ones which had been hatched under a hen, and which, 'when abandoned by her, associated with the cows, which they regularly followed to the fields, returned with them when they came home in the evening, stood by them while they were milked, and again accompanied them to the pasture. These remained during the winter, lodging in the stable, but as soon as spring came they disappeared.'

J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has favoured me with the egg of this species for delineation in this work.

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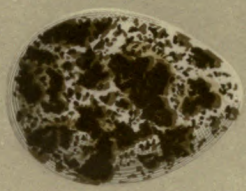

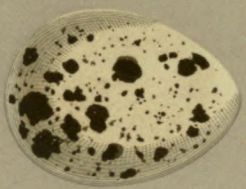

QUAIL.

CXLIV

QUAIL.

COMMON QUAIL.

PLATE CXLIV.

Perdix coturnix, LATHAM. JENYNS.
Tetrao coturnix, LINNÆUS.

FOR a nest the female scrapes out a small hollow in the ground, into which she collects a few bits of dry grass, straw, clover, and such like. She alone sits, and very closely, on the eggs, but the male assists her in the care of the young.

The eggs are yellowish white, orange-coloured white, or greenish, blotted or speckled with brown. They vary much in number, from six to fourteen, or even, it is said, twenty, though generally ten; a bevy of ten birds has been known to be reared. Incubation lasts about three weeks. The eggs are not laid till June, or even July. The young follow the dam as soon as they are hatched.

One is of a brownish yellow, marbled over with darker brown.

A second is of a greyish yellow, speckled over with small yellow and brown spots.

ANDALUSIAN QUAIL.

ANDALUSIAN HEMIPODE. GIBRALTAR QUAIL.
ANDALUSIAN TURNIX. THREE-TOED QUAIL.

PLATE CXLV.

Hemipodius tachydromus,	Gould.
Hemipodius lanatus,	Temminck.
Perdix Gibraltarica,	Latham.
Turnix tachydroma,	Meyer.

THE eggs of this species are of a rich light olive yellow, with handsome waved blots and marks larger and smaller all over of dark olive-brown.

The figure on the plate is from a drawing of an egg then in Dr. Pitman's collection.

J. R. De Capel Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has forwarded me a specimen of a white ground, speckled with small spots of light brown and blue, and a few larger spots of a very dark brown.

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ANDALUSIAN QUAIL.

CXLV

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GREAT BUSTARD.

CXLVI

GREAT BUSTARD.

PLATE CXLVI.

Otis tarda, PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE bare earth is laid upon by this species. 'It is said that the Great Bustard will forsake her nest, if only once driven from it by apprehension of danger; but when the eggs are laid, and still more when the young are produced, it is only repeated meddling with them that will induce the parents to forsake them.'

The eggs, two in number, are of an olive brown colour, blotted with pale ferruginous and ash-coloured spots.

One variety is of a greyish green, with blots of brownish red and darker grey.

A second is of a light dull greyish green, with some dull spots of the same, and faint streaks and marks.

A third is of a darkish grey-brown, with some large blots of a darker brown.

LITTLE BUSTARD.

LESSER BUSTARD.

PLATE CXLVII.—FIGURE I.

Otis tetrax, PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest is on the ground—a mere hollow, under the shelter of any sufficiently high herbage that may be proximate.

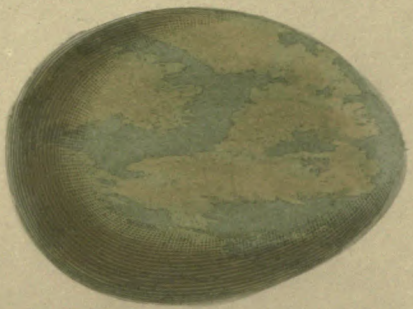
The eggs are said to be from three to five in number, olive brown in colour, sometimes varied with patches of a darker shade of brown.

MACQUEEN'S BUSTARD.

PLATE CXLVII.—FIGURE II.

Otis Macqueenii, GRAY.

THE egg is of a light dull yellowish pale brown colour, with some irregular blots over it.



LITTLE BUSTARD.

MACQUEEN'S BUSTARD.

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PRATINCOLE.

COURSER.

CXLVIII

PRATINCOLE.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE. AUSTRIAN PRATINCOLE.

PLATE CXLVIII.—FIGURES I, II.

Glareola torquata,	MEYER.
Glareola Austriaca,	LATHAM.
Hirundo marina,	RAY.
Hirundo Pratincola,	LINNÆUS. GMELIN.

A slight depression in the soil serves for a nest, or it is placed, Selby says, among rushes or other thick herbage. Many nests are often made not far from each other.

The eggs, four in number, are spotted with brown, or pale buff stone-colour with small round spots of bluish-grey and dull black.

One is of a light greenish ground, marked all over with brown spots, many of them run together in waved streaks.

A second is of a very light greyish green ground, irregularly marked over with darker and lighter brown spots and waves.

A third is of a pale yellowish green ground, with larger and smaller dark and light brown markings.

A fourth has a rich dark green ground, marked all over with dark blackish-brown marks, spots, and streaks.

A fifth is a dull greenish brown ground, much marked and blotted all over with dark and light brown.

A sixth is a light dull yellowish-green ground, thickly spotted, streaked, and marked all over with large and small dark brown spots and blots, more towards the larger end.

A seventh is of yellowish grey ground, marbled all over with dark brown, yellowish green, and grey streaks and spots.

An eighth is a light yellowish grey ground, handsomely spotted all over with larger dark brown and smaller grey and yellowish spots.

A ninth is of a dull yellowish ground, with large blots of dark brown, and greenish spots.

A tenth is paler yellowish, and not so largely marked.

R. J. De Capel Wise, Esq., of Lincoln College, Oxford, has forwarded me a specimen of the egg of this species.

COURSER.

PLATE CXLVIII.—FIGURE III.

Cursorius Europæus, MONTAGU. BEWICK.

THE egg is very handsomely mottled over with reddish brown, on a ground colour of a lighter shade of the same, or dull yellow.

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GREAT PLOVER.

CXLIX

GREAT PLOVER.

NORFOLK PLOVER. THICK-KNEED BUSTARD.
STONE CURLEW. WHISTLING PLOVER. THICK-KNEE.
COMMON THICK-KNEE.

PLATE CXLIX.

Œdicnemus crepitans,	SELBY. JENYNS.
Œdicnemus Bellonii,	FLEMING.
Charadrius crepitans,	MONTAGU. BEWICK.
Charadrius œdicnemus,	LINNÆUS. GMELIN.
Otis œdicnemus,	PENNANT. LATHAM.

THE bare earth is the nest, among weather-worn stones. The male appears to sit as well as the female, the time of incubation being sixteen or seventeen days. The young are led about by the female almost as soon as hatched, that is to say, on the day following their birth: at first the old birds take great care of them.

The eggs are pale brown, blotted, spotted, and streaked with greyish blue and dark brown, assimilating closely in appearance to the grey flints that surround them, thus being very difficult to detect. They are generally two in number, but sometimes, it is said, three; the third being for the most part not hatched. They vary in size and colour, some being

a dull yellow, and the spots much less clearly defined than in others.

One is of a brownish grey yellow, with large marks of dark greenish brown, and a few spots of the same, as well as with some specks of a lighter colour.

A second is of a light greyish, marked with some yellow marks, and spots of the same, with some bluish spots all over.

A third is grounded with dull greyish yellow, handsomely marked with blots, dashes, and specks of brown, chiefly round the middle of the egg.

A fourth is of a dull greyish yellow, with larger and smaller blots of dull brown.

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GOLDEN PLOVER.

CL

GOLDEN PLOVER.

WHISTLING PLOVER. YELLOW PLOVER. GREEN PLOVER.

PLATE CL.

Charadrius pluvialis, PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Charadrius Africanus, LINNÆUS.

NIDIFICATION commences about the end of May, or beginning of June. The hen bird alone sits. Incubation lasts seventeen days.

The nest, which I have never seen 'in situ,' is a very inartificial structure, being merely a few stems of grass and fibres laid together in some small hollow of the ground, only just large enough to contain them; what there is, is made the end of May, or beginning of June.

The eggs, four in number usually, are of a yellowish stone-colour, blotted and spotted with brownish black. They are placed quatrefoil—with the small ends pointed together inwards.

The young 'quit the nest as soon as hatched, and follow their parents till able to fly and support themselves, which is in the course of a month or five weeks.'

One variety is of a light reddish-brown colour, handsomely marked with large blots of dark brown.

Another is of a yellowish ground, marked with large spots of a dark brown, principally towards the thicker end.

A third is of a light grey-coloured ground, with some large spots of dark brown, as well as a few smaller ones.

A fourth is of a grey colour, tinged with yellow, with a large blot of brown at the thicker end, and some smaller ones, principally at the larger end.

The fifth is of the same ground colour as the preceding, handsomely marked with large and small spots of brown, principally at the thicker end.

A sixth is of a rusty yellowish colour, mottled at the thick end with brown, and a few smaller spots all over, darker and lighter.

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DOTTEREL.

DOTTEREL.

DOTTRELL. DOTTEREL PLOVER.

PLATE CLI.

Charadrius morinellus,	PENNANT.	MONTAGU.
Charadrius Tataricus,	LATHAM.	
Charadrius Sibiricus,	GMELIN.	

ANY small hollow in the ground serves for a nest, and it is generally near some stone or rock; a few lichens make its 'mossy bed.' The male assists the female in the work of incubation, which lasts apparently for eighteen or twenty days. The hen bird sits very close, and if disturbed only runs a few yards off.

The eggs are three in number, seldom more. They are laid from the end of May and the beginning of June to the end of June and even the beginning of July.

One variety is of a fine grey colour, blotted throughout with larger and smaller spots of brown, and a few dark grey ones.

Another is of a deep yellowish-brown ground colour, spotted principally about the larger end with small dark reddish brown spots.

RINGED DOTTEREL.

RINGED PLOVER.

SAND LARK. SAND LAVROCK. DULL-WILLY.

PLATE CLII.

Charadrius hiaticula, PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest, so to call it, for there is none but any slight natural hollow amongst small gravel, or on a little hillock of sand, frequently under the shelter of some tall grass, is generally placed on a bank by the beach, just above high-water mark, but occasionally in sandy places farther inland, as much, Sir William Jardine says, as ten, or from that to fifteen or twenty miles: in some instances on the banks that line the coast, or even over them in an adjoining field. Among others, on warrens in Norfolk and Suffolk, near Bechamwell, Elston, and Thetford, occasionally also in the Fens; great numbers appeared in those of Bottisham, and Swaffham, in Cambridgeshire, the Rev. Leonard Jenyns has recorded, in the months of June and July, it being a remarkably wet season.

The eggs are four in number, and of a greenish grey, pale buff or cream-colour, spotted and streaked with bluish grey and black, or blackish brown. The male and female both sit on them and appear much

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RINGED DOTTEREL.

attached to each other, as well as very careful of their eggs and young. In the spring the males often fight.

One variety is of a yellowish grey colour, spotted throughout with reddish-brown spots, most of them small.

Another is of a very light yellowish grey ground, with some small spots and short streaks of brown, mostly at the larger end.

A third is dark grey, slightly tinged with yellow, spotted irregularly with larger and smaller black spots.

A fourth is of a grey ground-colour, with numerous small blackish spots all over.

A fifth is of a whitish-grey ground, with some larger and more distinct spots of black.

LITTLE RINGED DOTTEREL.

LITTLE RING DOTTRELL. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.

PLATE CLIII.—FIGURE I.

Charadrius minor, JENYNS. GOULD.

THE sand is its nest.

The eggs are of a pale yellowish stone-colour, with numerous small spots of bluish ash, reddish brown, and dark brown. The young are hatched in sixteen or seventeen days, and at once begin to run about, hiding themselves instinctively with much cleverness if endangered.

The figure on the plate is from an egg in the collection of Mr. Smith, of Yarmouth.

LITTLE RINGED DOTTEREL.

KENTISH DOTTEREL.

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KENTISH DOTTEREL.

KENTISH PLOVER.

PLATE CLIII.—FIGURE II.

Charadrius Cantianus,	LATHAM. JARDINE.
Charadrius Alexandrinus,	HASSELQUIST.
Charadrius albifrons,	MEYER.
Charadrius littoralis,	BECHSTEIN.

THE nest is placed on the shingle, or rather is actual shingle itself, or fine sand, any slight depression serving as a receptacle for the eggs; a few blades of grass or withered weeds may perchance afford a scanty lining.

The eggs are four in number, Mr. Gould, it is said erroneously, says five; they are of a yellowish colour, finely and much marked all over, but chiefly at and about the centre and base, with dark blackish brown. The bird rarely sits on the eggs during the day.

GREY PLOVER.

GREY SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLIV.

Squatarola cinerea,	Fleming. Selby. Gould.
Vanellus griseus,	Jenyns.
Vanellus melanogaster,	Temminck.
Tringa squatarola,	Pennant. Montagu.

THE eggs are dark green, spotted irregularly with different shades of brown; the spots crowded and confluent round the obtuse end.

For the specimen of the egg from which the drawing for the plate was made, I am indebted to the Rev. H. B. Tristram, Perpetual Curate of Castle Eden, Durham. It was taken by himself in Finmark, in 1852.

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GREY PLOVER.

CLIV

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TURNSTONE.

PEEWIT.

PEEWIT.

PE-WIT. TE-WIT. LAPWING. COMMON LAPWING.
CRESTED LAPWING. GREEN LAPWING.
GREEN PLOVER. LAPWING SANDPIPER. FRENCH PIGEON.

PLATE CLV.—FIGURE II.

Vanellus cristatus,	FLEMING. SELBY.
Tringa vanellus,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.

THE nest is that which 'Mother Earth' supplies by a small and slight depression in the soil, with the addition sometimes of a few bits of grass, heath, or rushes, and this perhaps answering to the geographical description of an island, 'entirely surrounded by water,' on the marshy ground. To avoid, however, the evils attendant on this contingency, a mole-hill or other slight eminence is often chosen for a cradle. The young are not capable of flying till nearly full-grown.

The eggs, which are, like those of most if not of all small birds, very delicate eating, and sold in immense numbers for the purpose, are four in number; and so disposed in their narrow bed, as to take up the least amount of room, the pointed ends laid inwards, like the radii of a circle, to 'one common centre.' They vary to an extraordinary degree, though generally very much alike: some are blotted nearly all over with

deep shades of brown. In general they are of a deep dull green colour, blotted and irregularly marked with brownish black. They are wide at one end and taper to the other, as is the case with birds of this class. They are hatched in fifteen or sixteen days.

One variety is of a light yellowish-olive ground colour, spotted and marked over with dark brown and grey.

A second is dark green, smeared over in some parts with a light greenish brown, and spotted also with very dark brownish black spots, and several large marks of the same.

A third is pale dull cream-coloured, with some rather large and some smaller blots, dots, and marks, of a rich dark brown, and a few light grey spots.

A fourth is of a very pale yellowish grey ground colour: it is spotted over with small spots of dull green and grey.

A fifth is a dull dark-yellow ground, with large blots of dark brown, and a few smaller marks of the same.

A sixth is dull yellowish with a tinge of red, spotted and blotted over with dark reddish brown.

TURNSTONE.

COMMON TURNSTONE. HEBRIDAL SANDPIPER.

PLATE CLV.—FIGURE I.

Strepsilas interpres,	FLEMING. SELBY.
Tringa interpres,	LINNÆUS.
Tringa morinella,	LINNÆUS.
Arenaria cinerea,	BRISSON.
Morinellus marinus,	RAY.

THESE birds lay their eggs on sandy and rocky coasts, both where a stunted vegetation obtains, and where sterility alone is the characteristic of the scene. They appear to have no tie to any previously-tenanted situation, but choose a new residence, like other tribes, if so it suit them, year after year. The nest is sometimes placed under the shelter of a stone, rock, plant, or other break in the surface, and at other times on the mere rock, sand, or shingle. It is but some trifling hollow, natural, or scraped out for the purpose, lined, perhaps, with a few dry blades of grass, or leaves.

The eggs, four in number, vary much in colour and markings, some being of a green olive ground, and others of a brown olive colour; some much and others only a little spotted, principally about the obtuse

end with dark grey, olive-brown, and black, or reddish-brown of two shades. They are cleverly concealed.

Mr. Hewitson says that all the eggs of this species that he met with in his visit to the coast of Norway, were suffused with a beautiful tint of purple or crimson, seen in those of few other species.

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KILLDEER PLOVER.
SOCIABLE PLOVER.
SANDERLING.

KILLDEER PLOVER.

PLATE CLV*.—FIGURE I.

Œgialitis vocifera, LINNÆUS.

THE nest, is, as with many other of such birds, a mere hollow in the ground, lined only, so far as it is lined at all, with a few bits of dry grass, among which are found small pieces of shells, but these, I should imagine, introduced accidentally, and not intentionally; sometimes it is made on a heap of seaweed.

The eggs, generally not more than three in number, are of a yellowish stone-colour, spotted and variously marked with black.

SOCIABLE PLOVER.

PLATE CLV*.—FIGURE II.

Vanellus gregarius, PALLAS.

THE egg is of a clear yellowish brown colour, more or less mottled over with dark reddish brown, chiefly at the larger end.

SANDERLING.

CURWILLET. TOWILLY.

PLATE CLV*.—FIGURE III.

Arenaria calidris,	GOULD.
Arenaria vulgaris,	STEPHENS.
Calidris arenaria,	TEMMINCK. JENYNS.
Charadrius calidris,	PENNANT.
Charadrius rubidus,	GMELIN.

THE nest is said to be placed in marshy places, and formed in a rude manner of grass. Mr. W. H. Fielden, with the Polar Expedition, found one on a gravel ridge, at a height of several hundred feet above the sea, in a hollow in a low willow bush, lined with a few leaves and catkins.

The eggs are described as being four in number, of a dusky colour spotted with black. Those figured by Mr. Fielden are of a bright yellowish brown, speckled over with spots of a darker shade.

OYSTER-CATCHER.

PIED OYSTER-CATCHER. SEA PIE. OLIVE.

PLATE CLVI.

Hæmatopus ostralegus,	PENNANT. MONTAGU.
Hæmatopus Belonii,	WILLUGHBY.

THE nest is placed among gravel or stones, or among grass near the sea bank, in situations above high-water mark, where these materials of building are at hand, and the bird seems to be especially partial to a mixture of broken shells, which it carefully collects together and places in a slight hollow in the ground, using considerable care in their disposition. Several nests appear to be made, sometimes, before the architect can fashion one to give perfect satisfaction; many nests are also placed in contiguity to each other, intermixed too, it may be, with those of other aquatic birds. Some have been met with on the top of isolated rocks, at a height of from ten to fifteen feet from the ground. In lieu of shells, small pieces of stone or gravel are selected, and the whiter they are the better they seem to please. Incubation lasts about three weeks.

The eggs are four in number, and of a yellowish stone-colour, spotted with grey, brown, and brownish-

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OYSTER CATCHER.

black. They have been found variously in April, May, June, and July, so that it would appear that two broods are reared in the year. The eggs are disposed with their small ends inwards.

One is of a light greyish-yellow, with dark brown marks all over, and some spots of the same.

A second is also of a dull greyish-yellow, with thin streaks of brown, and some spots and marks of a darker brown and grey.

A third is of a light yellowish-brown, with dark blackish brown spots, some lighter spots of the same, and some grey ones.

A fourth is of a light greyish yellow, handsomely marked with dark brown spots, chiefly at the larger end, a few only over the remainder of the surface.

A fifth is of a dark rich yellow, with some large dark brown blots and some smaller ones.

The ground colour of a sixth is dark reddish-brown, with large streaks of darker brown, and some spots.

END OF VOLUME II.

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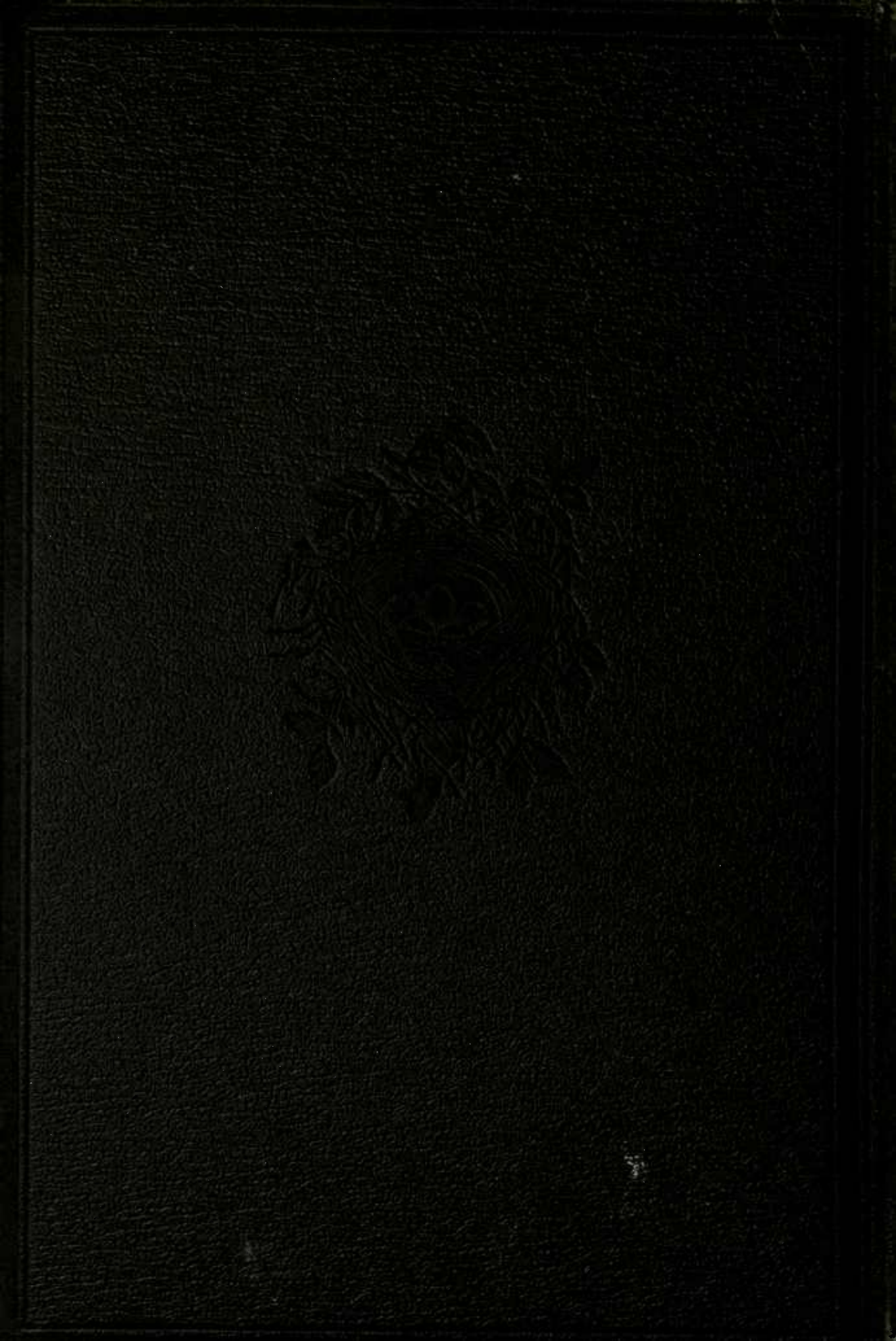
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